

THE AMERICAN

LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

January 1995

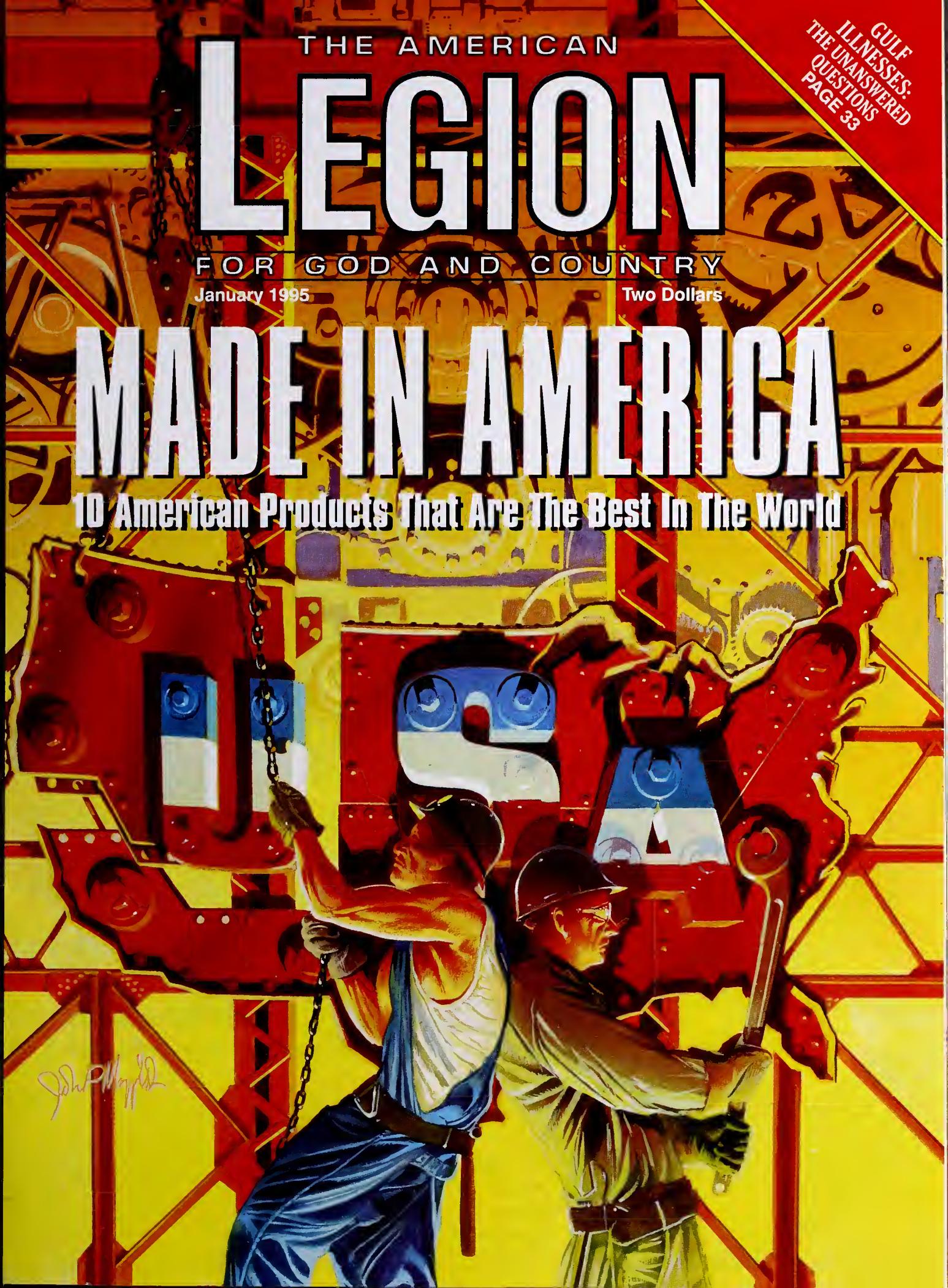
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THE UNANSWERED
QUESTIONS
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John Phillips





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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 138, No. 1

January 1995

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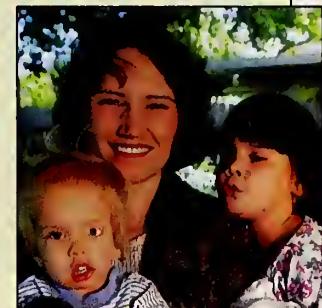
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Americans may not believe it, but "Made in the U.S.A." still means quality. See page 46. Illustration by John Maggard/Scott Hull Associates.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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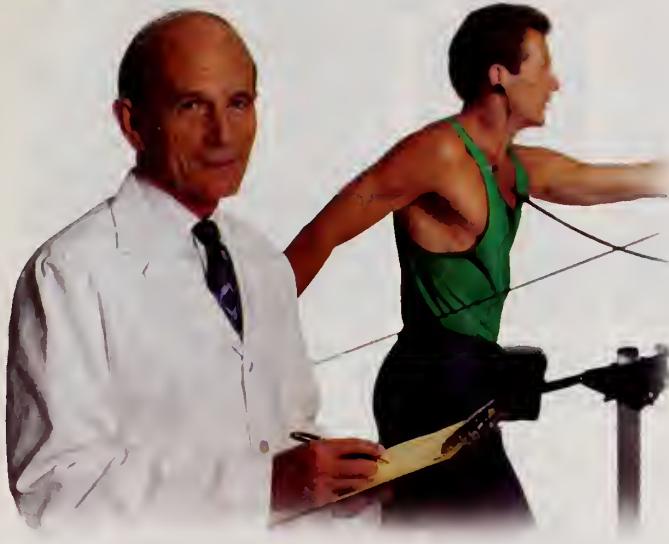
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Fighting For Enola Gay

The American Legion deserves boundless praise on its rightful stand against the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum ("Rewriting Enola Gay's History," November, by Brian D. Smith). The truth about the Smithsonian's anti-American bias is out. It planned to use the Enola Gay as a symbol of American aggression. If that is the prevailing attitude of the Smithsonian, then I think the Enola Gay should go to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, where it would be accorded the respect it is due.

I am proud of the Legion's firm stand on this issue. Keep 'em blinking Commander Detweiler.

Joseph L. Nelson
Nauvoo, Ill.

The idiots at the Smithsonian do not recall that after Pearl Harbor, technology gave us many weapons and techniques we did not have before. The atomic bomb was another step in our favor. Our enemies would have used it against us if they had the choice. Hitler, for example, used V-1s and V-2s against English civilians.

Pete Hardiman
Hillsboro, Ore.

Only when everyone connected with the whole Enola Gay subversion attempt is completely out of the Smithsonian will the veterans' organizations have won a permanent victory.

Leland E. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

It was my privilege to defend Corregidor. We reluctantly surrendered to Japan on May 6, 1942. At that point, we became Japanese prisoners of war. The harsh, bitter, inhumane treatment that followed is beyond normal human comprehension.

I was among the first to be transported to Japan from the Philippines to perform slave labor. Starvation and harsh treatment was the rule for the months that followed. I was tortured for attempting to steal food.

On Aug. 22, 1945, I was escorted to a room with Japanese military officers and an interpreter. One officer

spoke in Japanese, and the interpreter translated: "The war is over. We are now friends."

Thank God for the Enola Gay and the role it played in history. It saved those of us who held on to life by a thread.

Everett D. Reamer
Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

The Japanese were the brutal forces in World War II, not the Americans. I think the Japanese got every bit that was coming to them. The Japanese pledged to fight to the last man. We certainly did the right thing.

▀ Joseph DeClue
Jefferson City, Mo.

Three cheers for Paul W. Tibbets Jr. ("Our Job Was To Win," November) and his crew of the Enola Gay! I was on the island while they were putting the mission together, but I did not know it at the time. I flew over Hiroshima after the bomb was dropped. If it saved only one American serviceman's life, it was worth it.

Richard E. Quinn Jr.
North Attleboro, Mass.

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE welcomes letters to the editor concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include a daytime phone number for verification. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters are subject to editing for clarity and brevity. Volume precludes individual acknowledgments of comments on editorial content.

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"Rewriting Enola Gay's History" made me madder than hell — mad enough to write my congressman and demand that we withdraw all taxpayer support from the Smithsonian. These brats' revision of history is unconscionable. Our problem is that they are younger than us and will be around longer to do their dirty work. What will happen when the WWII vets are gone?

Allan C. Stover
Ellicott City, Md.

Tibbets was right on target with his comments in "Our Job Was To Win."

Charles A. Dowling
Warwick, N.Y.

Let us give thanks to the Smithsonian. They solved the problem of how to conquer Japan without dropping the bomb. When the bomb fell, I was a battery commander in a 40mm anti-aircraft battalion on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. We had just completed rehearsing for the invasion of the Japanese mainland.

The people upstairs told us flat out that about 50,000 of us would die establishing the first beachhead. While I admit to a lack of impartiality in this

Please turn page

Corrections

• The October article, "The Battle For Leyte Gulf," should have stated that there were 39 PT boats positioned across the Surigao Straits. These PT boats reported on the position of the Japanese southern force and attacked ships exiting the straits.

• The November article, "The Battle Of The Bulge," should have stated that the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion was involved with the Malmedy massacre.

• In our recent coverage of WWII battles, some contributions of our armed forces were inadvertently omitted, including: Glider pilots who assisted U.S. troops trapped in Bastogne; the U.S. 7th Army during the German counteroffensive in northern Alsace; the 30th Infantry Division during the march to the Rhine; the 11th Airborne and the 77th Infantry divisions' efforts at Leyte Gulf.

matter, I can believe that the bomb saved the lives of more Japanese civilians than American soldiers.

When we went ashore the day after the surrender, we found their coastal defenses in caves facing outward. Their defenses could have cost us 50,000. It is true that there were tremendous civilian casualties at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On the other hand, our conventional bombings had already cost them thousands of civilian casualties.

*Ben Harney
Spokane, Wash.*

The WWII vets won the war. The battle to take away that victory and replace it with shame began some time ago. It has surfaced with force at the Smithsonian. I am proud that the Legion has engaged the enemy! Let's not quit until the truth prevails.

*Everett L. Johnson
Augusta, Kan.*

How were the Japanese "defending their unique culture against Western Imperialism" as stated in the Smithsonian's original script? Was the Bataan Death March an expression of "their unique culture?" The Japanese military was as brutal and arrogant as the German Nazis and had the same contempt for the Geneva Conventions in their treatment of prisoners of war.

Is this some more of the politically correct agenda rampant now in Washington?

*Karl R. Tripp
Houston, Texas*

Aiming At AIM

Accuracy in Media (AIM) is nothing more than a fringe organization established to foster the slanted viewpoint of founder Reed Irvine ("The Press's Prejudices," November). For several years, I worked for mainstream media, including the Associated Press, Newhouse News Service, Armed Forces Radio and Television Service in New York, and American Forces Network in Frankfurt and never once was I instructed to write, edit or broadcast a single story with a "left-wing bias." I find it extremely difficult to believe that there is a con-

sspiracy by a liberal media to brainwash us all.

*Richard O. Waters
Etowah, N.C.*

The TV networks do, indeed, run the media in America. They are able to do so because their most consistent viewers are those who have a great deal of time on their hands and no initiative to work or occupy their lives. This is particularly true in the daytime with the insulting fare offered by Oprah, Donahue, Sally whatever-her-name-is and those of the same ilk.

The liberal press has made any intelligent discussions of the social breakdown unfashionable. They do so by immediately calling any position contrary to their own view as "bigoted" "racist" or "homophobic." These buzz words are used to reduce any arguments contrary to the media's as hatred.

*Rocco L. Campagna
Dunmore, Pa.*

Flag Respect

I really enjoyed your article on our Flag ("To Protect Our Flag," October, by Assistant Editor T. Douglas Donaldson). Let us hope that in the future, respect for the great traditions for what the Flag stands for will once more be brought back into focus.

*Leonard Owczarzak
Brooklyn, Mich.*

We have been distributing our petitions to keep the American Flag flying. Anybody who thinks they have the right to burn the American Flag in protest is a disgust to the American people.

*John J. Lyons
Benton, Ky.*

Earp's Marriage

My mother wrote one of the manuscripts that the book "I Married Wyatt Earp" was based on ("On The Trail Of Wyatt Earp," October, by Larry Tritton). Mother's manuscript covers the years after Tombstone and came directly from the mouth of Josie Earp and were independently corroborated.

About Wyatt's and Josie's marriage: Josie told mother they were

married on Lucky Baldwin's yacht off the Southern California coast. Mother could not substantiate this and doubted they were ever legally married.

*Walter D. Cason
Deer Park, Calif.*

Pavlov's TV

By constant repetition, TV viewers are conditioned to accept dishonesty, immorality and teenage sex as normal acceptable conduct ("Screens Of Violence," October). Television and the movies have used Pavlov-type conditioning to destroy our values so that we now are a nation of pleasure seekers and money grabbers.

*William F. Fitzgerald
White Horse Bay, Mass.*

I urge Legionnaires to resist the rising tide of violence in the entertainment industry. Every combat veteran knows that violence is never accompanied by the nauseating faux-witty remarks contained in trash movies such as *Die Hard* and *The Terminator*.

The American Psychological Association recently reported that the average child sees 100,000 acts of violent "entertainment" by the time he or she finishes elementary school. If this sort of mindless glamorizing of violence damages even one child, isn't that one child too many?

*Michael H. Dougherty
High View, W.Va.*

Posting A Reply

The reply by Postmaster W.S. Chasteen to the Paul Craig Roberts article was pretty pathetic and typifies what is wrong with the U.S. Postal Service ("Pocketing Property," November, *Vetvoice*). People and businesses do vote with their pocketbooks. Fast and reliable delivery is important to them.

To penalize businesses for using high-priced, private services for reliable delivery is preposterous.

*Gerald L. Clendenin
Modesto, Calif.*

75th Congrats

You and your entire staff are to be congratulated on the special September

Please turn page



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"I HAD A TOUGH TIME GOING THE DISTANCE."

Every time I traveled someplace, I was worried about finding a bathroom so I could urinate. It was frustrating.

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Are you a man over 50 with urinary discomforts? Do you urinate often during the day or night? Is your urine stream difficult to start? Is it weak or interrupted? Does your bladder feel as if it isn't emptying completely?

If so, see your doctor. Your doctor can determine whether you have symptomatic BPH (or other conditions such as prostate cancer). Your doctor can also explain the different treatment options for symptomatic BPH: surgery; "watchful waiting," which consists of having regular checkups over time; and oral medications such as HYTRIN.

HYTRIN can cause a sudden drop in blood pressure at the beginning of treatment (or if you miss doses and then start taking the medication again). You may feel dizzy, faint, or "light-headed," particularly after getting up from a chair or bed.

Talk with your doctor today and call to receive your FREE informative booklet on symptomatic BPH and HYTRIN.

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PATIENT INFORMATION ABOUT HYTRIN® (HI-TRIN)

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When used to treat BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA (BPH)

Please read this leaflet before you start taking HYTRIN. Also, read it each time you get a new prescription. This information should NOT take the place of a full discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss HYTRIN and your condition before you start taking it and at your regular check-ups. HYTRIN is used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia or BPH. HYTRIN is also used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension). This leaflet describes HYTRIN only as a treatment for BPH.

What is BPH?

The prostate is a gland located below the bladder. It surrounds the urethra (you-REETH-rah), which is a tube that drains urine from the bladder. BPH is an enlargement of the prostate gland. The symptoms of BPH, however, can be caused by an increase in the tightness of muscles in the prostate. If the muscles inside the prostate tighten, they can squeeze the urethra and slow the flow of urine. This can lead to symptoms such as:

- a weak or interrupted stream when urinating
- a feeling that you cannot empty your bladder completely
- a feeling of delay when you start to urinate
- a need to urinate often, especially at night, or
- a feeling that you must urinate right away.

Treatment options for BPH

There are three main treatment options for BPH:

- Program of monitoring or "Watchful Waiting". Some men have an enlarged prostate gland, but no symptoms, or symptoms that are not bothersome. If this applies, you and your doctor may decide on a program of monitoring including regular checkups, instead of medication or surgery.
- Medication. There are different kinds of medication used to treat BPH. Your doctor has prescribed HYTRIN for you. See "What HYTRIN does" below.
- Surgery. Some patients may need surgery. Your doctor can describe several different surgical procedures to treat BPH. Which procedure is best depends on your symptoms and medical condition.

What HYTRIN does

HYTRIN relaxes the tightness of a certain type of muscle in the prostate and at the opening of the bladder. This may increase the rate of urine flow and/or decrease the symptoms you are having.

- HYTRIN helps relieve the symptoms of BPH. It does NOT change the size of the prostate, which may continue to grow. However, a larger prostate does not necessarily cause more or worse symptoms.

If HYTRIN is helping you, you should notice an effect on your particular symptoms in 2 to 4 weeks of starting to take the medication.

Even though you take HYTRIN and it may help you, HYTRIN may not prevent the need for surgery in the future.

What you should know while taking HYTRIN for BPH

WARNINGS

HYTRIN Can Cause A Sudden Drop in Blood Pressure After the VERY FIRST DOSE. You may feel dizzy, faint, or "light-headed" particularly after you get up from bed or from a chair. This is more likely to occur after you've taken the first few doses, but can occur at any time while you are taking the drug. It can also occur if you stop taking the drug and then re-start treatment.

Because of this effect, your doctor may have told you to take HYTRIN at bedtime. If you take HYTRIN at bedtime but need to get up from bed to go to the bathroom, get up slowly and cautiously until you are sure how the medicine affects you. It is also important to get up slowly from a chair or bed at any time until you learn how you react to HYTRIN. You should not drive or do any hazardous tasks until you are used to the effects of the medication. If you begin to feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you feel better.

- You will start with a 1 mg dose of HYTRIN. Then the dose will be increased as your body gets used to the effect of the medication.
- Other side effects you could have while taking HYTRIN include drowsiness, blurred or hazy vision, nausea, or "puffiness" of the feet or hands. Discuss any unexpected effects you notice with your doctor.

Other important facts

- You should see an effect on your symptoms in 2 to 4 weeks. So, you will need to continue seeing your doctor to check your progress regarding your BPH and to monitor your blood pressure in addition to your other regular check-ups.
- Your doctor has prescribed HYTRIN for your BPH and not for prostate cancer. However, a man can have BPH and prostate cancer at the same time. Doctors usually recommend that men be checked for prostate cancer once a year when they turn 50 (or 40 if a family member has had prostate cancer). These checks should continue even if you are taking HYTRIN. HYTRIN is not a treatment for prostate cancer.
- About Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA). Your doctor may have done a blood test called PSA. Your doctor is aware that HYTRIN does not affect PSA levels. You may want to ask your doctor more about this if you have had a PSA test done.

How to take HYTRIN

Follow your doctor's instructions about how to take HYTRIN. You must take it every day at the dose prescribed. Talk with your doctor if you don't take it for a few days, you may have to restart it at a 1 mg dose and be cautious about possible dizziness. Do not share HYTRIN with anyone else; it was prescribed only for you.

Keep HYTRIN and all medicines out of the reach of children.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HYTRIN AND BPH, TALK WITH YOUR DOCTOR, NURSE, PHARMACIST OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

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VETVOICE

ber issue of the magazine marking our 75th anniversary. Its theme "For God and Country" not only made me proud to be a member but also encouraged some of my friends to join.

Frank J. Nappi
Massapequa, N.Y.

Concurrent Receipt

Retired military service-connected disabled veterans should receive their VA disability dollar for dollar, despite any retirement pay. Noncareer veterans receive VA disability compensation for wounds and disabilities no matter what.

J. Edward Evans
Spring Hill, Fla.

Big Brother?

Cliff Kincaid stated, "A revolutionary breakthrough in drug-testing technology for police could also be suitable for widespread testing in the workplace" ("Drug Testing," Washington Watch, November). Horror of horrors!

The idea that U.S. citizens should willingly give up their bodily fluids for testing by an employer or the government is incredible.

Please, America, do not openly invite Big Brother into our lives. Too many of our freedoms have already been seriously eroded by policymakers who think they know more about what is good for us than we do.

Sidney E. Gilbert
Redondo Beach, Calif.

Veterans Day Kudos

On behalf of the Mineral Wells High School and myself, I thank you for featuring our Veterans Day program in the November issue of the magazine ("Veterans Day: A Celebration For All Ages," by Les Brindley). This program is truly outstanding and spotlights the efforts Post 75 started 11 years ago. The community and the nation should be more aware of what our veterans have given to ensure our heritage of freedom. Brindley did an excellent job of getting the essence of the story to your readers. The photographs were well done, too. It has been the talk of the town since we

Please turn to page 93

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THE UNSEEN BULLETS OF THE GULF WAR

REPORTS of low U.S. casualties in the Gulf War were apparently premature. The risk of death and suffering continues for thousands of GIs stricken with a mystery illness that has spread fear among active duty troops, Persian Gulf veterans and their families.

Seemingly without cause, more than 20,000 GIs who served in the Gulf War are reporting symptoms ranging from bleeding gums and aching joints to extreme physical disability. They do not know what has made them ill and they are worried.

The unknown is always frightening, especially when it involves illness. But the concerns of Gulf War GIs has heightened with each bit of information that has emerged from a number of ongoing investigations.

Here are some of the disturbing revelations (as reported by THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE's Assistant Editor Ken Scharnberg in the article "What's Wrong With Me?" beginning on Page 33):

Gulf War GIs are dying. In a report by former Michigan Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr., 200 deaths were linked to a mysterious Persian Gulf illness. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cannot accurately assess the death toll from this illness because it does not track the cause-of-death of veterans.

GIs who report Gulf War Syndrome jeopardize their careers. The American Legion has heard from many GIs who are afraid to seek help for medical problems resulting from service in the Gulf War. They fear the reprisals that they say have befallen others who have come forward. GIs tell the Legion that a diagnosis of Gulf War Syndrome is the kiss of death for a military career.

Indeed, the Department of Defense (DoD) has maintained from the beginning that Gulf War illness is a reaction



Nat'l. Cmdr. William M. Detweiler

to stress. And a lack of understanding is still a concern, according to the service men and women who have contacted The American Legion.

Chemical or biological weapons of war may have been used against U.S. troops. In a report of the General Accounting Office (GAO), a Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) investigation was said to conclude that troops may have been exposed to chemical weapons, which could be the cause of some of their health problems. Officially, DoD denies that American forces had such weapons. DIA suggests "a possible accident involving chemical agents among coalition forces."

Deadly man-made and regional health hazards may have combined into a toxic cocktail. Here are just some of the health risks that could have combined to cause illness among Gulf troops: nerve and blister agents; radiation; local diseases; experimental drugs used to immunize U.S. troops; and a variety of chemicals from insect repellent to burning oil fires to highly toxic paint.

Just as Agent Orange caused birth defects in the children of exposed Vietnam veterans, the Gulf War Syndrome is showing evidence of having similar consequences for children of Gulf War veterans. The American Legion is not going to allow the government to treat victims of Gulf War Syndrome the way it has treated Agent Orange victims and their families.

Our government failed Agent Orange victims as it delayed compensation until many of them had died. Our government fell short of conducting an unbiased, comprehensive study of Agent Orange and its ill effects to determine service-connected conditions even though The American Legion has demanded it for years. And our government forgot the plight of the families.

VA Secretary Jesse Brown is a good man with a long track record of standing up for veterans and their families. He has an opportunity to step above the poor choices of his predecessors and help Gulf War veterans who are now sick or who will become ill in the near future.

As National Commander, I will put the resources of The American Legion at his disposal. We must work together to find out what is making Gulf War GIs and their families sick. And we must find a way to cure them.

In addition to helping veterans file claims with VA, The American Legion has set aside \$100,000 to monitor a VA investigation of the Gulf War Syndrome to see that it is both unbiased and comprehensive. At the Fall Meeting, Oct. 19-20, 1994, the National Executive Committee passed Res. 4 authorizing the National Commander to act on behalf of Gulf War veterans who are ill.

While we will work with our government, we will not be content to wait for it to act. We must act now to help our fellow veterans and save their lives and the lives of their unborn children. □

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SHOULD CONGRESS END BASEBALL'S ANTITRUST EXEMPTION?

Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-Florida)

As I write this, the "Boys of Summer" are somewhere on a golf course — or in the lawyer's office.

For over three years now, I have been trying to solve one of the problems that presently plague the game of baseball. One reason the players were not playing and why the 1995 season is in jeopardy is because baseball operates wholly within its own warped economic system.

We have \$1.2 million average-player salaries and \$3 hot dogs at the ballpark for one basic reason — major league baseball is a monopoly without competition. It is controlled by 28 ownership groups that have operated for two years now without a commissioner. As such, the baseball monopoly has been free to self-destruct outside the rules of normal business practice, and millions of fans have been left holding the bag.

I think we need to bring baseball fully within our nation's commercial laws. This primarily means ending the 70-year-old exemption that major league owners enjoy from our nation's antitrust laws.

That may soon change. On Sept. 29, 1994, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill to revoke the antitrust exemption as it pertains to the present labor impasse. While this bill will not be enacted during the present session, this action will set the stage for the new Congress that convenes this month.

Thus, I believe the days of a complete antitrust exemption are numbered. Many of my colleagues now realize that baseball is a business, indeed a big business.

Although Congress must concern itself with important budget, trade, crime and health-care legislation, many of my colleagues have come to recognize that Congress should act to end this historical anomaly and bring the game of baseball fully within the laws that all other businesses and all other sports operate.

The alternative to inaction is readily apparent. It occurred in living rooms across the country, where long-time baseball fans like myself settled into the couch on a Saturday afternoon only to remember sadly that there's no baseball game on TV.

There's something very wrong with that and, I might say, something almost "un-American." □

YES



Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert (R-New York)

NO



The sights and sounds of baseball are an integral part of American life and when many Americans go to a ball game, it's minor league baseball they're watching. Because of the major league baseball strike, this year's minor league attendance rose to 33.3 million nationally, from 30 million last year.

As an unabashed fan, the baseball strike has me in mourning. But my greatest concern is the future of the minor leagues.

Baseball is much more than just a sport. It is a business exempt from the antitrust laws that govern our land. It is also a business plagued by uncertainties, most notably the labor dispute which brought an abrupt end to the 1994 season. As a result, Congress has reopened the book on the all-American game.

But Congress has largely overlooked the minors. That is why I decided last year to organize a group of my colleagues who were similarly interested in the minors. Thus, the minor league baseball caucus was formed. Now we find ourselves focusing on the threatened repeal of that antitrust exemption. Unfortunately, there is a dearth of understanding about how baseball is organized and how a repeal of the antitrust exemption could affect the minors.

The need for the antitrust exemption is clear; professional sports teams do not operate in what we traditionally think of as a free market. Minor league teams truly are partnerships among players, owners, local governments and fans. And while no other professional sport enjoys an exemption from antitrust laws, no other sport has a minor league system similar to baseball's.

Just about everyone in minor league baseball with whom I have talked, ranging from the rookie leagues to Triple A clubs, is convinced that lifting the exemption from baseball would be a crippling blow to the minors. If the clubs lose the exemption that — among other things — permits the player development contract, the incentive for the majors to finance the minors will be gone.

Without the cash from on high, gone too will be clubs like the Oneonta Yankees, the Utica Blue Sox, the Durham Bulls and the Memphis Chicks and others. A colorful, and I would submit, important piece of Americana would be lost forever. □

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT, TOO

Senators and congressmen are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Or, you may call the U.S. Senate at: (202) 224-3121; and the House at (202)225-3121.

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Political Fortunes

The anti-illegal immigration sentiment that helped propel California Governor Pete Wilson to a re-election victory is expected to grow, as Peter Brimelow's provocative book, *Alien Nation* (Random House), hits the bookstores in the spring. Brimelow, an editor of *Forbes* magazine, contends that immigration — legal and illegal — is changing the cultural makeup of America and undermining its Western European roots.

Wilson, once considered politically dead, came back largely on the strength of his anti-illegal immigration stand.

His calculated use of the issue has political analysts speculating that he could become the front runner for the 1996 GOP presidential nomination.

On the other side of the aisle, political tea leaf readers say Jerry Brown, former California governor and now a talk show host, could mount a 1996 primary challenge to President Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. Brown campaigned for the nomination in 1992, opposing special interest money in politics and supporting a flat income tax.

What has many politicos raising their eyebrows is Brown's apparent pitch for conservative votes, especially from the Pat Buchanan wing of the Republican Party.

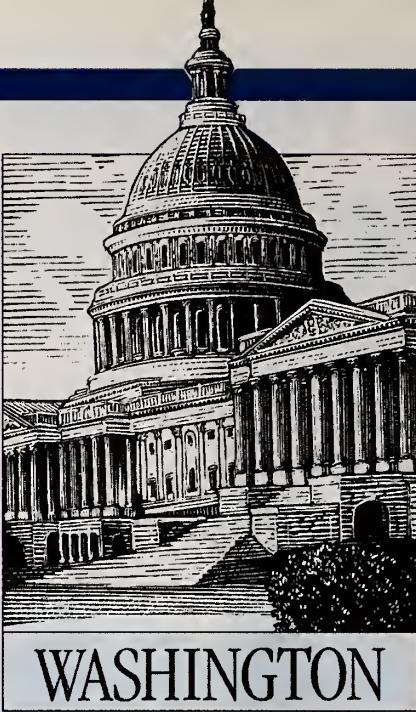
In an interview in the conservative intellectual journal, *Chronicles*, Brown outlined a possible alliance between liberals and conservatives opposed to the influence of big government and big corporations. Brown also expressed sympathy for Buchanan's "nationalist message."

Oil Dependence

Look for a big fight this year on how to cut the nation's ever-increasing dependence on foreign oil. The administration, its national energy policy plan due the middle of this year, is expected to push for alternative fuels and energy efficiency. But the oil and gas industry wants tax incentives (a.k.a. tax breaks) for domestic oil production.

Behind the fights are figures from the U.S. Department of Energy that

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

show U.S. oil dependence rising from 50 to 80 percent by the year 2010.

Meanwhile, oil rich Alaska is proceeding with its \$29 billion lawsuit charging the federal government with violating Alaska's compact of statehood by preventing large tracts of federal land from being commercially developed.

Middle East Troubles

President Clinton's proposal for resolving the Israeli-Syrian dispute is running into serious problems. One of the biggest is the growing opposition to placing American troops under UN auspices on the Golan Heights as part of a settlement.

Clinton's proposal for "security guarantees," given to Israel and Syria last October, was aimed at preventing the strategic Golan Heights from becoming a threat to Israel again.

The administration hopes the proposal will end the stalemate within a few months.

The exact extent of the security guarantees has not been revealed because the Clinton proposal is secret. But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had previously requested U.S. troops to help monitor a possible peace accord with Syria.

The dangers were recognized by

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who predicted that Syria "is likely to attack Israel even if a peace agreement is reached" because extremist elements in the country and future leaders of the Arab state will initiate aggression.

Judge Exposed

An Illinois judge faces being kicked off the bench, fines and a possible jail term because he allegedly falsely advertised himself as a Medal of Honor winner. According to press reports, Kane County Circuit Court judge Michael O'Brien, 57, admitted he concocted the deception in 1992 while battling alcohol and emotional problems. O'Brien had obtained two copies of the Medal of Honor, both engraved with his name. One hung in his chambers.

Harold Fritz, an authentic Medal of Honor recipient for heroism in Vietnam, uncovered the case after being informed by a state official that O'Brien had applied for Medal of Honor license plates.

Fritz has filed a complaint with the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board. U.S. law provides for fines and imprisonment of up to one year for unauthorized use of the award.

Public Servants

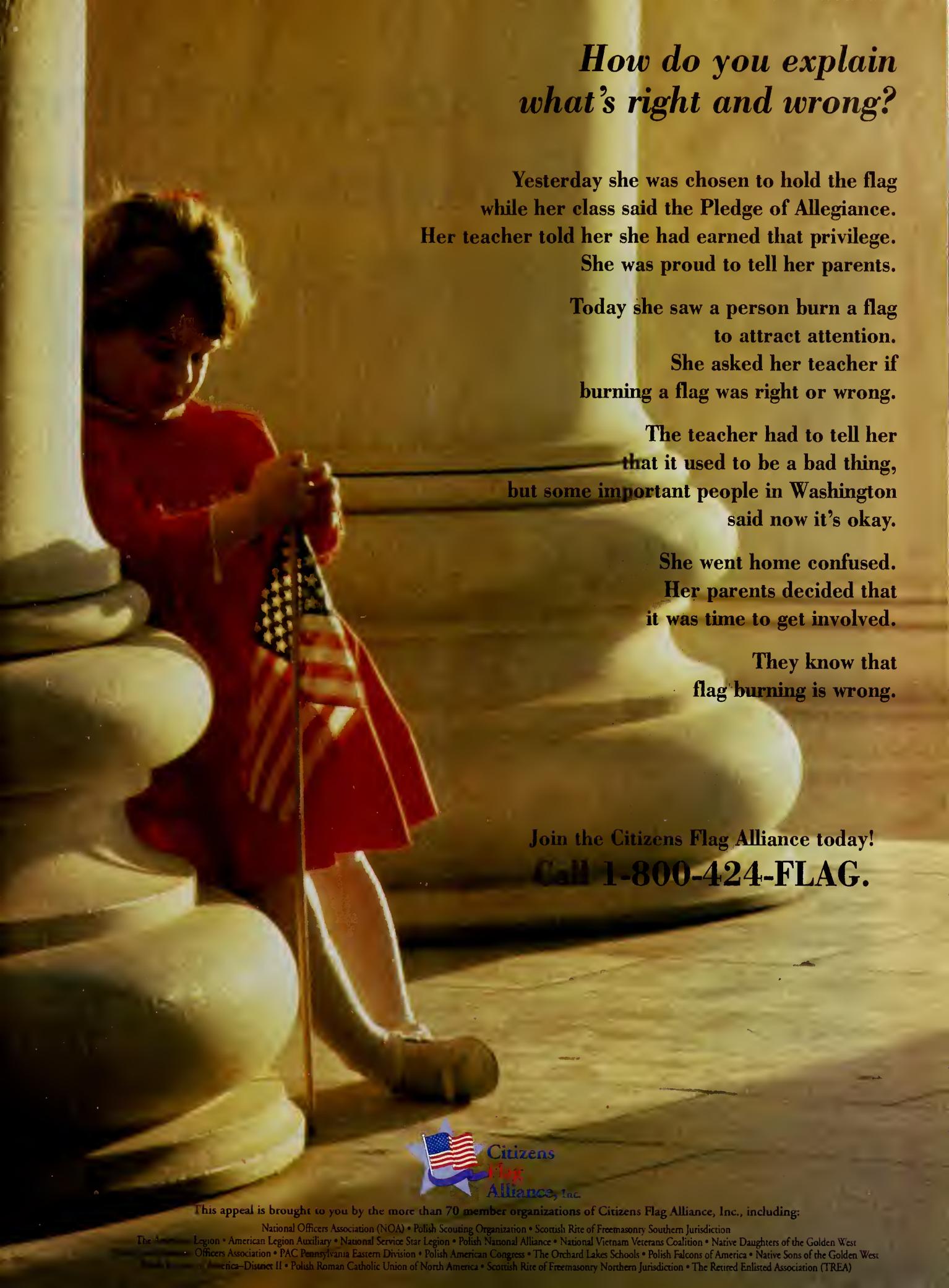
The new Congress is expected to take another hard look at compensation for public employees, beginning with Amtrak, the federally subsidized passenger railroad, whose severance packages can amount to \$1 million for a laid-off manager.

Under current law — an old arrangement worked out with a rail union — most Amtrak employees are entitled to six years in severance pay if they lose their jobs or don't want to be transferred more than 30 miles away.

Texas Congressman Joe Barton is expected to reintroduce an amendment to the Amtrak reauthorization bill, cutting severance pay to just 6 months.

Meanwhile, the American Legislative Exchange Council has released a study that found employees at all levels of government are paid more than those in the private sector. The disparity is greatest at the federal level.

The investigation discovered that employees of the federal government received, on average, 26 percent higher income than private-sector employees.



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burning a flag was right or wrong.

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She went home confused.
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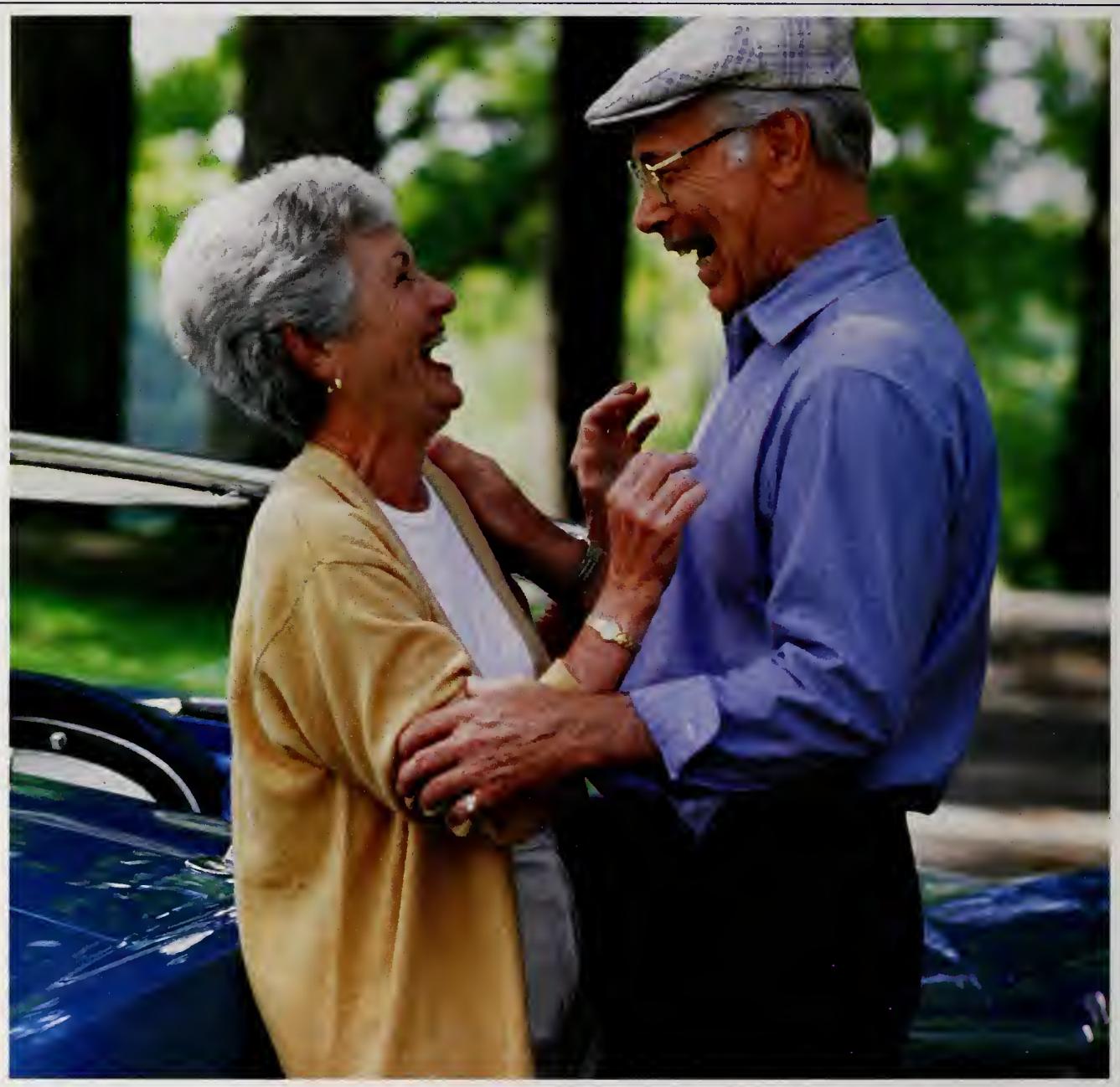
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Please be sure to read the important information on the back of this advertisement.

everything you can high cholesterol?

**Tests prove MEVACOR helps lower cholesterol
when diet and exercise aren't enough.**

Julia had a heart attack last year.

Her doctor was concerned about her high LDL cholesterol. High cholesterol is serious — especially if you have heart disease or two or more of these risk factors: being a man over 44 or a woman over 54 or past menopause, like Julia... having a family history of early heart problems...high blood pressure...diabetes...cigarette smoking...low HDL ("good") cholesterol.

Julia needed to get her LDL cholesterol down to 100 or less.

New national guidelines say if you've ever had a heart attack, your LDL cholesterol count should be 100 or less. People who have two or more of the risk factors above should have an LDL cholesterol count under 130. You may already know your total cholesterol number, but do you know your LDL? Your doctor can measure your LDL.

Diet and exercise helped, but not enough.

After more than 3 months of strict dieting and exercise, Julia's LDL cholesterol was still very high. The doctor said diet and exercise alone aren't always enough to lower cholesterol to recommended levels. It could be genes or body chemistry; no one knows for sure. He said some people need to add medication to their cholesterol-lowering plan to get results. He thought Julia should go on medication.

The doctor prescribed MEVACOR.

After adding MEVACOR to Julia's diet and exercise program, her LDL really started to go down.

Ask Your Doctor About MEVACOR.

For a free booklet about cholesterol, call
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Tests prove MEVACOR really works.

MEVACOR plus diet and exercise has been proven to lower LDL cholesterol better than diet and exercise alone. And, though it has not been shown that MEVACOR can prevent illness or death from heart disease, MEVACOR has helped many people reach their cholesterol goal and is generally well tolerated. Of course, not everyone gets the same results. And not everyone on MEVACOR reaches their cholesterol goal.

VITAL INTERESTS™: The Patient Support Service from Merck.

This service is available to users of MEVACOR. It offers help in staying with a cholesterol-lowering regimen and a cost savings for certain uninsured patients. If you are taking MEVACOR now, you can enroll in VITAL INTERESTS through your pharmacist, or call 1-800-995-5700.

Is MEVACOR right for you?

Ask your doctor. MEVACOR should not be used by people with liver disease or possible liver problems, women who are breast-feeding, pregnant women, women of childbearing age unless highly unlikely to become pregnant, or people who are allergic to any of its ingredients. Because of possible serious drug interactions, tell your doctor about any medications you are taking.

There can be side effects.

It's recommended that your doctor perform routine blood tests to check liver enzymes before and during your treatment. Tell your doctor if you experience any unexplained muscle pain or weakness while taking MEVACOR, as this could be a sign of serious side effects. There are other side effects. Be sure to read the next page and discuss them with your doctor.

**The most widely prescribed
cholesterol-lowering medication in America.**

MEVACOR is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol when diet and exercise are inadequate.

MEVACOR®
(LOVASTATIN)

PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, AND THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT MEVACOR. NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.

WHEN MEVACOR SHOULD NOT BE USED: Some people should not take MEVACOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

Allergic Patients: MEVACOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient lovastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHS) is added as a preservative. Tablets MEVACOR 10 mg also contain red ferric oxide and yellow ferric oxide. Tablets MEVACOR 20 mg also contain FD&C Blue 2. Tablets MEVACOR 40 mg also contain D&C Yellow 10 and FD&C Blue 2.

Patients with Liver Problems: MEVACOR should also not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

Women Who Are or May Become Pregnant: Pregnant women should not take MEVACOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take MEVACOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on MEVACOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

Women Who Are Breast-feeding: Women who are breast-feeding should not take MEVACOR.

WARNINGS:

Liver:

About 2% of patients who took MEVACOR for at least one year in certain studies developed significantly elevated levels of liver enzymes, as determined by blood tests. (See SIDE EFFECTS.) Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. These elevations appear to become more likely as the dose increases. Liver disease with symptoms such as jaundice has been reported rarely at all dosages (see SIDE EFFECTS).

Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before and during treatment with MEVACOR. The tests should occur every 6 weeks for the first 3 months, every 8 weeks for the rest of the year, and afterwards at about 6-month intervals. If your levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels increase to an unusually high level, your doctor should discontinue your medication. If these elevations persist after the drug is discontinued, a liver biopsy may be necessary.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past, and about how much alcohol you consume. In patients who have had liver disease or consume large amounts of alcohol, MEVACOR may be more likely to cause these side effects.

Muscle:

Tell your doctor right away if you experience any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with MEVACOR, particularly if you have a fever or if you are generally not feeling well, so your doctor can decide if MEVACOR should be stopped.

Muscle Breakdown and Kidney Damage:

Rarely, patients taking MEVACOR can develop severe muscle breakdown or kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with MEVACOR, such as the lipid-lowering drug Lopid® (gemfibrozil), a fibrate, lipid-lowering doses of niacin (niacin), the antibiotic erythromycin, drugs that suppress the immune system (called immunosuppressive drugs, such as Sandimmune® [cyclosporine]), or azole derivative antifungal therapy (itraconazole). The risk of muscle breakdown is also greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

Because kidney damage from severe muscle breakdown has been seen more commonly with the combination of MEVACOR/gemfibrozil, the possible benefits of combined therapy with MEVACOR/gemfibrozil usually do not outweigh the risks of severe muscle disease, muscle breakdown, or kidney damage. Also, the combined use of MEVACOR with other fibrate drugs should generally be avoided.

Because there are risks in combining therapy with MEVACOR with lipid-lowering doses of niacin (niacin) or with drugs that suppress the immune system, your doctor should carefully weigh the potential benefits and risks. He or she should also carefully monitor patients for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor may also monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes, or of MEVACOR, in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

Because of a risk of kidney failure with muscle breakdown in patients receiving cyclosporine, lovastatin should be temporarily discontinued if systemic azole derivative antifungal therapy is required. Patients not taking cyclosporine should be carefully monitored if systemic azole derivative antifungal therapy is required.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or discontinue MEVACOR. Such conditions include severe infection, low blood pressure, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine, and electrolyte disorders, and uncontrolled seizures. Discuss this with your doctor who can explain these conditions to you.

Muscle Disease and Enzymes:

Temporary, mild elevations in muscle enzymes are commonly seen in patients treated with MEVACOR. However, in certain clinical studies, approximately 0.5% of patients (one in 200) also developed muscle disease, i.e., muscle pain or muscle weakness associated with significant elevations in muscle enzymes. Your doctor should discontinue therapy with MEVACOR if significant elevations in muscle enzymes occur or if muscle disease is diagnosed or suspected.

In studies, about 30% of patients on drugs that lower the immune system (including cyclosporine) and MEVACOR developed muscle disease; the corresponding percentages for patients on MEVACOR and gemfibrozil or niacin were approximately 5% and 2% respectively.

PRECAUTIONS:

Before starting treatment with MEVACOR® (lovastatin), try to lower your cholesterol by other methods such as diet, exercise, and weight loss. Ask your doctor about how best to do this. Any other medical problems that can cause high cholesterol should also be treated.

Patients with the rare disorder known as homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia are less likely to benefit from MEVACOR and more likely to develop elevated levels of liver enzymes while taking MEVACOR. Your doctor can tell you if you have homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia.

Drug Interactions: Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription.

MEVACOR can interact with immunosuppressive drugs, gemfibrozil, niacin (nicotinic acid), erythromycin, and itraconazole. See WARNINGS, Muscle.

Some patients taking MEVACOR and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) such as Coumadin® (warfarin) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with MEVACOR and should continue to be monitored frequently during early therapy. Once a stable clotting has been documented, clotting can be monitored at the intervals usually recommended for patients on coumarin anticoagulants alone. If the dose of MEVACOR is changed, the same procedure should be repeated.

Endocrine (Hormone) Function: MEVACOR and other drugs in this class may affect the production of certain hormones. Caution should be exercised if a drug used to lower cholesterol levels is administered to patients also receiving other drugs that may decrease the levels of activity of hormones (e.g., ketoconazole, spironolactone, cimetidine). If you are taking other drugs, tell your doctor.

Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility: Like most prescription drugs, MEVACOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In these tests, some of the animals had damage to nerves of the blood vessels in the central nervous system, including the brain. Others developed certain cancers or tumors of the liver or lung. Male dogs and rats sustained injuries to their reproductive systems. Your doctor can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests mean about safety for you.

Pregnancy: Pregnant women should not take MEVACOR because it may harm the fetus.

There have been rare reports of birth defects in humans taking MEVACOR, including a report of an infant born with birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take MEVACOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while on MEVACOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

The active ingredient in MEVACOR has been shown to produce birth defects in the skeletons of mice and rats given 40 times the human dose or more. No such defects were seen, however, when rats were given eight times the human dose, when mice were given four times the human dose, or when rabbits were given three times the human dose.

Nursing Mothers: Drugs taken by a nursing woman may be present in her breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking MEVACOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN MEVACOR SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

Pediatric Use: MEVACOR is not recommended for children or patients under 20 years of age because safety and effectiveness have not been established.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Like all prescription drugs, MEVACOR can cause side effects, and some of them are serious.

Most patients tolerate treatment with MEVACOR well. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. In clinical studies with MEVACOR, less than 5 percent of patients dropped out because of side effects. The most common reason was significant increases in liver function tests.

Some of the side effects that have been reported with MEVACOR or related drugs are listed below. *This list is not complete; it does not give the frequency of these side effects which varied from study to study. Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug for you. If MEVACOR is prescribed for you, be sure to ask your doctor about side effects at that time and any time you think you may be having a side effect.*

Digestive System: Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, stomach pain/cramps, heartburn, nausea, acid regurgitation, dry mouth, vomiting, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis and liver cancer, loss of appetite, inflammation of the pancreas.

Muscle, Skeleton: Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness, leg pain, shoulder pain, chest pain, joint pain, muscle breakdown. Muscle breakdown can be severe. See WARNINGS, Muscle.

Nervous System: Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, nerve disease, nerve palsies, anxiety, depression, tremor, vertigo, facial paralysis.

Skin: Rash, itching, hair loss, lumps, discoloration, changes to hair or nails, dryness of skin or mucous membranes. Causal relationship is unclear.

Senses: Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, eye irritation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness, impairment of eye movement.

Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions: On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred to as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included one or more of the following features: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat with difficulty in swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; hives; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever; chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from a rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

Other: Chest pain, edema (swelling), loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

Laboratory Tests: Liver function test abnormalities including elevated transaminases, alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin, rare reports of thyroid function abnormalities.

Note: This summary provides important information about MEVACOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the professional labeling and then discuss it with them.

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FALL MEETING



FOR THE FLAG
Virginia NECman
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that The American Legion will not back down in its efforts to see the Enola Gay exhibit appropriately displayed by the Smithsonian Institution.

The Legion became involved when early scripts for the exhibit — now titled “The Final Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II” — contained a number of inaccuracies and omissions. It portrayed the Japanese as victims of American aggression, included only a one-half sentence mention of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and contained few words about Japanese war atrocities. The scripts also questioned America’s decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

“The Enola Gay and WWII veterans have been prostituted in order to make a political statement about the horrors of atomic warfare,” Harrington told the NEC.

Harrington reported that Legion representatives continue to work with the Smithsonian Institution to ensure an honest representation of America and U.S. veterans in the National Air and Space Museum exhibit planned for May. Immediately following the Fall Meeting, the Legion met again with Smithsonian representatives to discuss the exhibit. At press time in late November, the Legion still had not endorsed the museum’s exhibit, despite major changes that were made at the Legion’s request.

“Justice is what this controversy is all about,” said Harrington, a WWII veteran. “Justice to the memory of the WWII veterans. Justice to the generations we leave behind. And justice to a nation that nurtured and sustained us over the past 50 years.”

Harrington called working with the Smithsonian “an unusual battle” that pits The American Legion against “the most highly regarded, most influential and most American of institutions in this country.”

Harrington concluded by saying the exhibit “breaks the faith of the 2,000 Americans still in the hull of the *USS Arizona*.” His remarks drew a standing ovation from the NEC.

Following Harrington at the podium, National Commander Detweiler reiterated the Legion’s position on the

Please turn to page 68

Watchdog For Veterans

The Legion will vigilantly monitor VA's study of Persian Gulf veterans' ailments and the Smithsonian's exhibit of the Enola Gay.

WI WILL NOT get away with a haphazard, shallow study of the ailments of Gulf War veterans, as it did with the Vietnam War’s Agent Orange victims. The American Legion will be scrupulously looking over the Department of Veterans Affairs’ shoulder whenever it begins its study of Gulf War GIs, as mandated by Congress.

At its Fall Meeting Oct. 19-20, the National Executive Committee (NEC) of The American Legion unanimously passed Res. 4, which authorizes up to \$100,000 to be spent to review VA’s methods of studying Gulf veterans.

“We want to make sure VA thoroughly and accurately examines all the medical problems experienced by Persian Gulf veterans,” said Chet Stellar, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. “We also want to be sure VA hires a research organization that is capable of undertaking such an enormous study.”

Stellar said Res. 4 directs the

Legion to become involved early in any VA investigation of Gulf veterans’ ills and to suggest changes in VA’s study methods, if deemed necessary.

“We want to find out what happened to our troops in the deserts of the Mideast,” said National Commander William M. Detweiler. “We will not be content to sit back and wait for results. We want to participate in the study from the outset.”

The plan to monitor VA’s study of Persian Gulf veterans is the latest Legion effort in support of the nation’s newest wartime veterans. The Legion created the Family Support Network in 1990 to provide assistance to the families of Desert Storm troops. When troops returned home from the Gulf War, the Legion was the first to warn them about giving blood and among the first to urge them to file VA claims if they had medical problems.

DEFENDING THE ENOLA GAY

In an emotionally charged report, Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Herman G. Harrington told the NEC

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The Power of PR



PHOTO BY NEIL FANION

Public relations helps your Post build a positive image in your community and can get you new members, too.

their town newspaper, *The Culpeper Star Exponent*.

With pride and confidence, they pitched a story idea that wound up on the front-page of the paper with the headline "American Legion a lot more than old soldiers." The article explained how the Legion and Post 330 were far more than social clubs. It told everyone in Culpeper about the great work of Post 330. And suddenly, Legionnaires enjoyed new-found respect from citizens. Post membership shot up 25 percent.

Another PR success story is *Legion Today*, a 30-minute cable access television show that airs on Channel 5 in Plainville, Conn. Produced by Neil Fanion and Nick Pipitone, two members of Legion Post 199 in town, the show calls attention to veterans issues and highlights their Post's community involvement, from American Legion Boys State to helping people in need.

"We get about 10 to 15 letters a week from Legionnaires who enjoy the show," said Fanion, Post Commander and Public Relations Officer for the Department of Connecticut. "They tell us to keep it going."

LEIGIONNAIRES from Post 330 of Culpeper, Va., have always been active in their community, from donating money to charity to providing honor guards for veterans' funerals. But these good deeds went unnoticed until James Nichols tapped into the power of public relations (PR).

"We wanted to show the public who we are and what we stand for," says Nichols, the Post's PR officer.

To promote the Legion's activities, Nichols and several Post officers initiated a meeting with a reporter from

According to Fanion, *Legion Today* has given the Post a good image in the community, and Post membership has increased by 12 percent since the TV show first aired.

"All of our episodes help promote our Post," said Fanion. "People are seeing what the Legion is all about."

Building and maintaining a positive image for The American Legion is the function of public relations, which worked for Post 330 and Post 199, and can work for your Legion Post, too. Here's how your Post can tap into the power of PR.

Select a public relations officer. PR officers must become the eyes, ears and voice of the Post. They need strong communication skills and must be knowledgeable about Post activities. They must be comfortable dealing with reporters. A good PR officer shapes how a community views The American Legion, not just locally but nationally, too.

Meet the press. Remember to publicize your Legion activities in local newspapers, and on radio and TV. When meeting with a reporter, talk about your Post and the good things it does for the community. And remember, don't wait until the last minute to publicize an event. Alert your local news outlets way ahead of time about important upcoming events.

Sponsor community events. Your Post can sponsor community activities, from Special Olympics to Legion programs such as American Legion Baseball. Join with local schools and churches to help young people.

As National Commander William M. Detweiler says: "Be visible and show a command presence. Mobilize Legionnaires to stand up for the issues that matter."

With PR, that's what you can do. And when you are visible in a positive way in the community, reporters will seek out your opinion. But being visible doesn't always mean you will look good.

Prepare for bad news. At some point, your Legion Post may have to deal with unfavorable publicity. However, it's possible to turn the bad news into something positive for your Post and for The American Legion. When something bad happens, tell the truth.

Please turn to page 92



Hello, my name is Tom Lee, President of Bierhaus International, Inc.

If you're tired of paying \$12-\$18 a case for beer, I don't blame you.

That's why I'd like to show you an amazing new way to brew your own superb lager for as little as \$4.56 per case. You actually SAVE up to \$10 on EACH CASE OF BEER. And wait until you taste the beer! Compare it to the finest premium beers. Referring to this method of making beer, the *New York Times* stated, "...the quality of the beer may surprise many people... wait two to four weeks and friends may be placing orders!"

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Try your mini-brewery. Keep it for up to 6 months. Make the beer at your leisure. If you don't agree that this is the best beer you've ever tasted in your life, we'll buy the kit back.

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IS IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE?

Using the Bierhaus Mini-Brewery, you can brew beer in just 25 minutes on a regular kitchen stove. Let it ferment for seven days, bottle it, and you're done.

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Just brew what you need once every month or two and that's it! For as little as 19 cents per bottle.

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Certainly. Just vary the ingredients and recipes according to the instructions supplied with each kit. You can make...

- **LIGHT LAGER.** Comparable to most Canadian premium beers and some light European lagers.

I'll send you \$5.00 FREE if you don't agree my ALL NATURAL beer is better than any commercial beer you've ever tasted.

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—Ed Pearson, New York

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You can make up to 200 gallons of beer per year — tax free — and you don't need a federal license of any kind.

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You can make a super light beer (1.8%-2% alcohol), regular strength (4.5%-5%), or a European-style lager, ranging as high as 7.5% alcohol.

MORE GOOD REASONS TO BREW YOUR OWN

If you truly love good beer, now is the ideal time to start brewing your own. "Sin" taxes are definitely coming. Bills before Congress could add \$5.00-\$6.00 to a case of beer or you could pay over \$1.00 a bottle for a six pack. But even more important is the quality of the beer you drink. "A well made home brew can stand on its own two feet against any premium brew the world over," says Tom Ayers, a home brew enthusiast.

Home brewing is growing at the rate of 25% a year and all the technology, ingredients, equipment and know-how is available to anyone who wants truly fine beer.

WHERE DO I GET SUPPLIES ONCE I GET THE KIT?

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These experts examine everything from exploding coffee pots to space shuttle heat tiles to discover what causes accidents.

By Phyllis Zauner

HE HAS saved thousands of lives, yet few know his name. Bernard "Skip" Ross and his colleagues at Failure Analysis Associates (FAA) are disaster detectives. They make a living from a fact of life — accidents will happen.

A plane crashes, a bridge collapses, a new car goes up in smoke. Failure Analysis experts poke through rubble, pinpoint what went wrong and advise how to avoid an encore. Using sophisticated machines, computers and a vast store of knowledge, Ross and

Freelance writer Phyllis Zauner wrote "Penny-pincher's Guide to The '90s" in the January 1993 issue of this magazine.

other members of the staff — 70 hold one or more Ph.D. degrees — can determine why accidents happen and cause injuries.

Ever since the first Roman aqueduct sprang a leak and deluged a passing Emperor, history has recorded a litany of flawed design — mechanisms that fail, structures that collapse, cranes that fall and doors that fly off planes in midair.

Certain failures aren't important, like the \$5 alarm clock that doesn't ring.

But in today's litigious society, stakes run high. Negligence judgments can run to millions of dollars, blacken a company's reputation and break it financially.

That's what has led to the success of Failure Analysis Associates of Menlo Park, Calif., and others like them.

They're hired by companies or victims when calamity strikes, and some-

times are called on to analyze potential danger so calamity can be prevented.

Their expertise doesn't come cheap. Fees can run into thousands of dollars for a major disaster, though smaller problems and accident-prevention consultations are less costly. One hour of an engineer's or a scientist's time can run \$150 to \$300, in addition to the cost of testing techniques such as deliberately blowing up a new car.

Ross has tested everything from baseball-pitching machines that "were clobbering kids" to heat-resistant tiles on a space shuttle to exploding coffee pots. Among the hundreds of cases investigated: the 1972 Pinto gas-tank explosion; a DC-10 crash in Chicago; window loss from Boston's Hancock Tower; and a Louisville bridge collapse.

Their findings are unbiased, and paying clients may find themselves liable. When the collapse of a roll-over protection canopy on a bulldozer turned the operator into a quadriplegic, serious violations of welding-code standards were found. The settlement came to a whopping \$3.8 million.

In another case, the collapse of a Texas oil derrick sent Ross clambering up the rig to analyze evidence. A bent flange and telltale gouges in the metal told him a metal "dog" had been improperly set by a worker.

After testing the Remington model-600 deer rifle, which on rare occasions fired unexpectedly just as the safety was disengaged, weapons expert Charles Rau testified for the injured persons in court. Remington recalled the rifle.

There's no accident that can't be reduced to physical laws. The pattern of debris on the ground, the length and direction of cracks, and the estimated speed and direction of falling material enable FAA sleuths to determine what went wrong.

But they say arriving on the scene swiftly is vital. Evidence is constantly degrading. Rust occurs. Parts disappear. Clues are lost.

At the scene of an accident, "We look and measure and photograph. Then we come back and do a lot of engineering studies," Ross says.

Please turn to page 93

FLYING TIGER



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CURTISS P-40B

by Raymond Waddy

Escorting two American bombers as they soar above the Burma Road, the Curtiss P-40B pilot has just spotted a Japanese A5M. Major David Lee "Tex" Hill knows the fighting will be fierce, but he's confident in his abilities and in his craft. As the enemy goes plummeting below — another score goes on the "Flying Tiger's" incredible record.

Now, this moment is recaptured in "P-40 Flying Tiger," a dramatic collector plate by acclaimed aviation artist Raymond Waddy, from his *Great Fighter Planes of World War II* collection. Issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of America's entrance into World War II, and featuring eight Raymond Waddy originals, each dynamic issue will be presented on shimmering porcelain, hand-numbered and accompanied by a same-numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

As an owner of "P-40 Flying Tiger," you will have the right—but never the obligation—to acquire subsequent issues. Our 30 Day 100% Satisfaction Guarantee assures you order at no risk. Submit your order today!

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OFFICE ETIQUETTE

FOR THE 90S



SURE SHAKE—
Should you offer to shake a woman's hand? And, if so, how hard? The answers: Yes, and just as firm as you would a man's.

Cellular phones, faxes and more women in the workplace have redefined good manners for today's business environment.

By Robert McGarvey

HERE ARE three everyday business situations. How would you handle them?

- You want to schedule a job interview with an applicant. You call his current work number and get his voice-mail box. Do you save time and recite the details now? Or just leave your name and ask for a return call?

- Walking down a street with a customer, you suddenly remember you must make a phone call. There's a pay phone across the street but it's occupied. Then you remember your customer has a cellular phone in his briefcase. Do you ask to use it?

- You are sent to the airport to meet a top executive who's a woman. Do you greet her with a handshake? How firm? She's lugging a bulky attaché case. Do you carry it for her?

If the answers to those questions don't pop instantly to mind, don't be surprised. "You cannot count on the old rules anymore," says Wayne Phillips of The Executive Etiquette Co. in Taunton, Mass. "Business manners have changed a lot."

The same factors that changed the way business works compared with a generation ago also have rewritten the etiquette rules.

For starters, there's the equal role of women in the workplace that has made much of the old etiquette obsolete. High-tech innovations — cellular phones, voice mail and faxes — didn't exist for most companies a mere five years ago. And corporate downsizing

has made the workaday world more hectic and demanding than ever.

With all these changes, last year's primer on etiquette might as well be last century's. "Etiquette matters and it changes. That means you've got to keep pace," says Phillips.

Does anybody still know which little fork is for the fish and which is for the dessert — and does anybody think that matters? "That's not what manners are about. Manners are involved in all our interactions," says Marjorie Brody, an office etiquette expert in Philadelphia. "Bad manners are why one job hunter loses out while a more polished applicant lands the job. Bad manners are why a business may lose customers. Nobody likes rude people."

"When your manners are polished, that's another arrow in your quiver of skills," says Phillips. Besides, he adds, imagine you're in a situation — eyeing that cellular phone or the woman exec's overstuffed briefcase for instance. You know etiquette rules apply, but you're not sure what they are. What happens? "Likely you'll get anxious, meaning you are ineffective," says Phillips. "You're uncomfortable and so is everybody else."

"Manners isn't rocket science. It all comes down to common sense and common courtesy," assures Brody.

Cellular phones, for instance, are convenient but costly. Cellular companies impose surcharges up to \$1 a minute for calls. What's proper etiquette here?

"Don't borrow somebody's cellular phone without asking if it's OK — and if the call is long, offer to pay for it," says office etiquette expert Brody. As for placing a call to a cellular phone, the best policy is often to wait until the person can be reached at a conventional phone, especially if the call likely will be lengthy.

Speaker phones also have their pitfalls. They are desktop staples, but "you've got to be cautious in using them," says Brody, who offers this horror story as proof:

A woman executive had a Saturday
Please turn page

Robert McGarvey's most recent article for this magazine was "Russia's Loose Cannons" in April.

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OFFICE ETIQUETTE

FOR THE 90's

night date. Monday, she is in a colleague's office and who should call but her date.

The colleague clicked on his speaker phone just as the caller launched into a tirade about how terrible his date had been.

"Don't put a party on the speaker without first advising them," says Brody. "Forget this and it's too easy to cause embarrassment."

As for voice mail, "don't put personal messages into the system," Phillips urges. It may be your voice-mail box, but co-workers can call it and so can the boss.

Things might not be too pleasant if the message is about a job interview you have, and the boss happens to tap into the message center.

The same caution applies to faxes. "View faxes and voice mail as public, not private media," advises Phillips, who adds that it is nonetheless poor taste to eavesdrop on another's personal voice mail or to read another's confidential faxes.

Even if you know the high-tech rules, you're still not out of the etiquette woods. There are plenty more stumpers, especially handshakes when women are involved. "The answer is

do it — offer to shake a woman's hand," says Brody, "and do it firmly, as you would a man's."

Brody points out that in her seminars this advice always produces the same objection: "But I don't want to hurt a woman's hand."

Of course not, she says, "but you don't want to hurt a man's hand either and if you're applying that much pressure, you're squeezing too hard. The rule is, firm, not bone-crunching."

Incidentally, for those who persist in thinking chivalry's better part is giving a woman a limp handshake, Brody says, "Do it and she'll think you're a wimp."

Much the same spirit shapes all of today's workplace relationships between women and men. No longer do men give way to women when leaving an elevator, and neither are doors held open.

"The rule is, treat a business woman exactly as you would a man of comparable status," says Brody.

While you're at this, use common sense, says Phillips: "If a female colleague is struggling with heavy boxes, offer to help — but do the same for a man. Hold a door open for an elderly woman as well as an elderly man. Be sensitive to the situation — that's today's guideline."

Etiquette troubles often occur when we are introducing people. "We may do it regularly, but few of us really

know how, which can leave everybody feeling awkward," says Brody. Who hasn't muffed this ritual?

"The rule is plain," says Brody. "Always introduce the person with more authority to the person with less." According to Phillips, it is especially wise to apply that rule when introducing a customer to the boss. In that situation, you should introduce the customer first: "Mr. Smith, I'd like you to meet our president, Mr. Jones." Phillips' reasoning? "If I don't have a customer, I don't have a boss," he says.

Easy enough, but what to do when you don't know the pecking order? "Outside diplomatic and Washington, D.C., circles, nobody is that picky about how introductions are done so long as they get done," says Brody.

But perhaps the most difficult contemporary office manner to acquire is the ability to say "no."

"That's a big problem in business," says Ann Humphries, president of Columbia, S.C.-based Eticon and a syndicated business etiquette columnist.

Humphries notes that organizational "right-sizing" — the new corporate euphemism for staff cutbacks, layoffs or "downsizing" — has aggravated the problem.

"Most of us are deluged daily with more requests — from co-workers, supervisors, customers — than we could possibly handle," she says. "And that means we have to get good at saying 'no.' Then, too, most requesters will be happy with a 'no' if it's polite: 'Sorry, but I'm way over-booked as it is.'"

Far worse than a "no" is saying "yes" and not following through, says Humphries. "Good manners mean keeping our word."

You can always get off on the right etiquette foot by keeping the little things in mind, like "saying 'hello' to co-workers in the morning, 'good-bye' as you leave at night, and adding 'please' and 'thank you' to requests," Humphries advises. "These little touches makes all the difference in how we feel about our work."

What do you do when an etiquette question looms and you do not recall the rule? Trust in Brody's Etiquette Golden Rule:

"Consider the other person. Do just that and all your relationships will improve," she says. □



POLITE PHONING—Don't borrow someone's cellular phone without asking, and offer to pay for the call. But it's best to wait until you can use a conventional phone.

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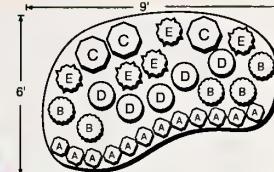
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WINNING IMAGES

The right clothes may not make you a king, but they'll persuade people to treat you like one.

By Robert McGarvey

WHILE Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin prepared for the landmark Camp David Summit, his advisers had another worry. Devastating rumors about Begin's health were destroying his effectiveness, and the proof was that he seemed so thin.

But one glance at a video was all it took to tell New York image consultant Dorothy Sarnoff there was nothing wrong with Begin that a good tailor couldn't cure.

"His shirt collar was too big. We got him smaller shirts and he stopped looking ill. It was that simple," says Sarnoff, who adds this warning: "With the wrong image, you won't get that sale or promotion or whatever it is you want. But often that's exactly what people project — a very wrong image."

Isn't this judging a book by its cover? Absolutely — but we all do it, says New York consultant William

Robert McGarvey is a frequent contributor to this magazine.



Thourlby, author of *You Are What You Wear*. "Walk into an office and people immediately draw a dozen conclusions about you, from how much money you make to how trustworthy you are."

Vivid proof comes from Hollywood, says Thourlby, who cut his own image teeth as the original Marlboro Man.

"When a character comes on screen, how do we know he's the good guy? The bad guy? Whether he's rich or poor? This all comes across instantly, in the actor's dress. Costuming to make a point started in Hollywood, and it has been picked up by politicians. Now the rest of us are coming to the science. You can consciously shape your appearance to determine how people interact with you."

Can't we wear overalls and still get whatever we want, doing it just on raw talent?

"That's like climbing a mountain with a 100-pound bag of sand on your back," says Thourlby. "You can do it, but there are easier ways."

There used to be a sure-fire way of determining how to dress, but those days are gone. "Years ago, you could put yourself in the hands of a salesperson at a good clothier, but no longer," says *Dress For Success* author John Molloy. "The sales people usually aren't as professional or informed as they once were."

Nor can a man rely on letting a spouse choose his wardrobe. "Often they give us the worst advice," says Thourlby. "They see us as a spouse, period."

Then, too, "It's the seemingly minor things that hurt us," says Thourlby. "Hollywood knows that undoing one extra button on a man's shirt — showing a little chest — can make all the difference in how we see him. Ignore the 'little things' and you are not dressing for impact."

What about you, do you need some image buffing?

"Virtually everybody does," says Susan Bixler, head of Professional Image in Atlanta. Bixler adds that a first step in this direction is ridding ourselves of flubs. "Men make so many mistakes — trousers too short, hair too long, and scuffed, dirty shoes — these are among common errors."

Joyce Grillo of Impression Management in New York adds that men often don't update their sizes. "They wore a size 40 suit at 25 and now, 15 years and as many pounds later, they're still buying that size," says Grillo. "Even when their clothes fit, men have a tendency to scrimp on tailoring. Expert tailoring is crucial — nobody is a perfect 40 regular."

Professional Image boss Bixler says you can catch many of your mistakes in dress by spot-checking yourself in a full-length mirror. "So many men never do that," she says, "but it's a way to get a sense of how others see us."

"The first rule of dress for success is to follow the leader," says author

Please turn to page 96

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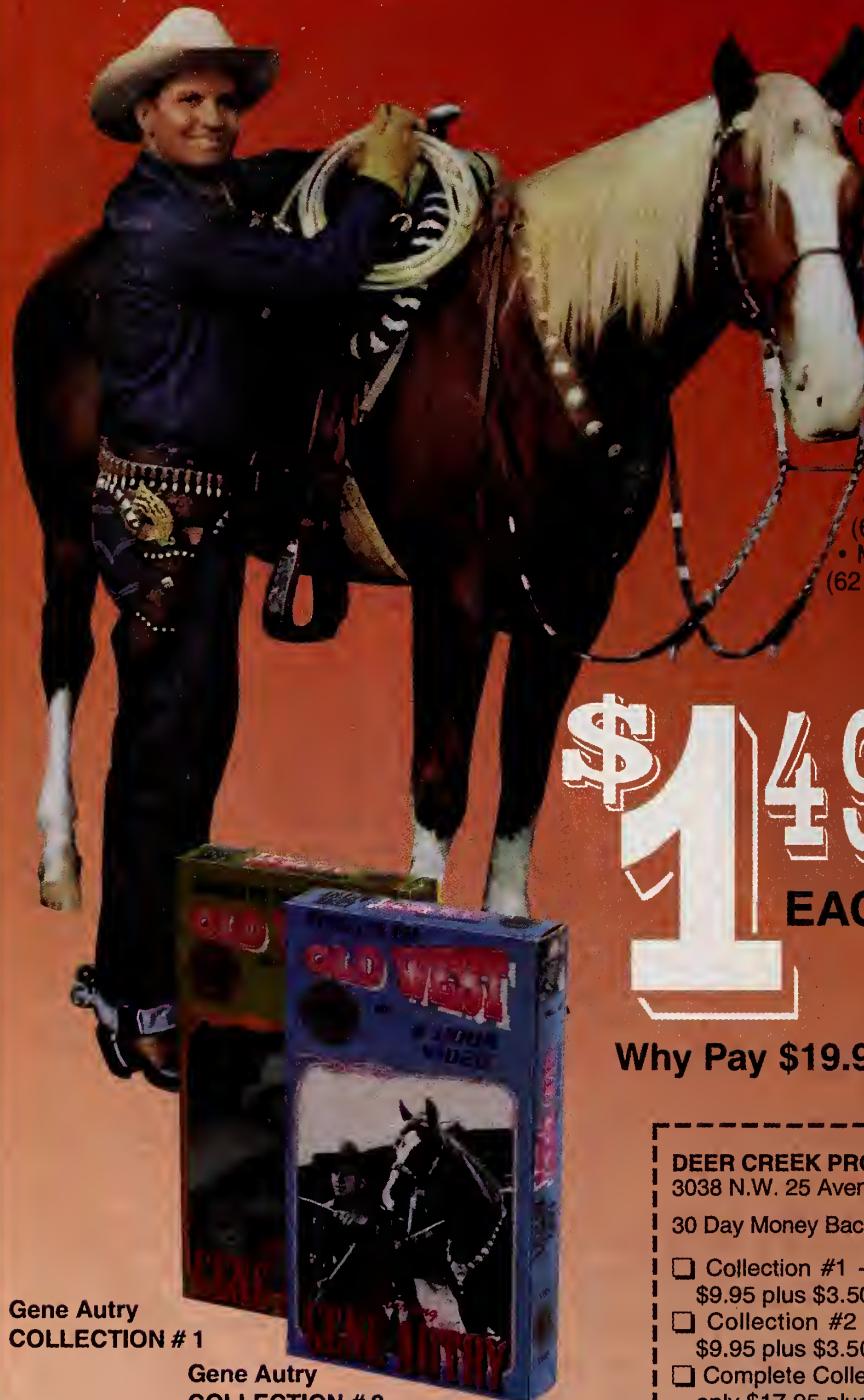
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WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

Sick Gulf War veterans ask and ask, but medical researchers and VA have few answers...and the Pentagon isn't talking.

AS GREEN BERET Lt. Col. Herb Smith lies in his bed awaiting another series of experimental medical treatments at a private clinic in Hilton Head, S.C., his mind clicks off the possibilities. Chemical weapons ... radiation ... biological weapons ... unknown viruses ... petrochemicals. ■ So many possibilities, so many unknowns. Hardly a day goes by without Smith wondering what is wrong with him. How could a member of the U.S. Special Forces — one of the nation's most elite fighting forces — go from a healthy, virile middle-aged man to a near-cripple in 36 months? ■ But that's what has happened to him since returning from the Gulf War. After months in Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., Army doctors could not diagnose what is wrong with him.

By Ken Scharnberg

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

Today, he is among a small group of veterans undergoing government-sponsored experimental treatments at Hilton Head and New York University.

Smith is one of tens of thousands of Gulf War veterans who have complained of physical deterioration, short-term memory loss, painful skin rashes, crippling joint pains, chronic fatigue, children with birth defects, and more.

VA figures as of June 1994 showed 2,232 Gulf War veterans have died of service-connected causes.

However, no one knows exactly how many died from Gulf Syndrome because VA does not track the cause-of-death of veterans.

In his investigation of Gulf illnesses last year, Michigan Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr. confirmed at least 200 deaths directly related to Persian Gulf illnesses.

"The Legion is deeply concerned that many of the reported deaths may be related to the Persian Gulf Syndrome," says Chet Stellar, Chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission.

As complaints of mysterious illnesses mounted, the Department of Defense (DoD) set up a hotline for sick Gulf War active duty troops in June 1994. By September, the hotline had registered more than 10,500 calls and was averaging 152 calls per day. More than 7,000 sick GIs' names are already on DoD's list.

Based on reports from private physicians, Senate testimony, veterans support groups and veterans themselves, there could be more than 40,000 ailing Gulf War veterans who have not sought medical care from VA or military hospitals. Many of those no longer in the military claim they are avoiding

Veterans Affairs Editor Ken Scharnberg wrote "Healing the Horrors of Agent Orange," in the October issue.

THE UNSEEN BULLETIN

In past wars, military medicine had to deal with torn bodies, familiar diseases and shattered minds. But the Gulf War added a new kind of casualty: GIs affected, often after they returned home, with mysterious symptoms and unknown illnesses. Listed below are some of the possible sources of these ailments. The effect of any given agent, or combination of agents, varies according to length and intensity of exposure and individual reactions. —K.S.

NERVE AND BLISTER AGENTS

Names Sarin, Tabun, Soman, VX, Mustard Gas.

Sources SCUD missiles, mines, munitions, infiltrators, artillery.

Symptoms Nausea, skin rashes and blisters, confusion, problems with eyesight, fatigue, muscle twitches and lowered immunity to disease.

BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

Names Anthrax, brucellosis, botulinum, histoplasma capsulatum and clostridium perfringens.

Sources SCUD missiles, mines, munitions, infiltrators, aircraft spraying.

Symptoms Muscle pains, chronic fatigue, skin rashes, difficulty swallowing, night sweats, blood poisoning.

RADIATION

Sources Depleted uranium, an ordnance manufactured in the U.S. for use against armored vehicles; power plant radiation leaks and contamination; microwave and other radar.

Sources Tank rounds, air-to-ground anti-tank rockets, residual dust and debris on equipment and targets,



LOCAL DISEASES



PETROCHEMICALS



EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS

NERVE

S OF THE GULF WAR



AGENTS BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

three Iraqi nuclear power plants bombed by allies.

Symptoms Hair loss, bleeding gums, skin rashes resembling sunburns, nausea, birth defects.

LOCAL DISEASES

Names Leishmaniasis parasites, Q-fever, cholera.

Sources Sheep, camels, sandflies, bird droppings, contact with local residents.

Symptoms Nausea, muscle and joint pain, flu-like symptoms, blood poisoning, diarrhea, skin rashes.

EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS

Names Anti-anthrax treatments, anti-nerve agent treatments, anti-botulism treatments.

Sources Given to GIs in the Gulf to counteract possible enemy chemical and biological attacks.

Symptoms Extreme allergic reaction in some cases, debilitating nausea, cramps, diarrhea, fatigue, confusion.

PETROCHEMICALS

Names Carbon monoxide, benzene, hydrocarbons, diesel and other fuels.

Sources Oil well fires, oil-based heaters, contaminated shower water, fuel exhaust.

Symptoms Fatigue, lowered immunity to disease, extreme allergic reactions to common chemicals, skin problems, possible cancers.

OTHER CHEMICALS

Names DEET, malathion, cleaning fluids, special paints, CARC (Chemical Agent Resistant Coating).

Sources Pesticides, coatings on clothing and weapons, paints, solvents.

Symptoms Skin problems, possible cancers, increased susceptibility to other chemical exposures, respiratory problems, headaches.

VA because they do not trust it.

Those still in uniform say they are afraid that a Gulf War Syndrome diagnosis will end their careers. In spite of guarantees that they will not be punished if they report to sick call with Gulf illness complaints, many active duty personnel just don't believe it.

There is a very real basis for this fear, as documented by those active duty personnel who have contacted The American Legion. "When service personnel inform their superiors and medical professionals they are ill, they are treated as second class citizens," says the Legion's Legislative Commission Chairman, Charles Pesso.

"When we asked why they were reluctant to come forward, the GIs unanimously told the Legion that they saw the harassment their peers suffered when they admitted they were sick," Pesso says.

One of those who was harassed was Marine Gunnery Sgt. Michael Adams, who looked for treatment from the Naval hospital at Portsmouth, Va. "When the Marine approached the internal medicine department," a Legion spokesman told the Senate Armed Forces Committee, "one of the doctors assigned to the protocol program stated, 'Here is another one who served in the Gulf who *thinks* he's ill. This is all a waste of time.'"

"The track record is very poor," says Army Maj. Jane Monville, veterans health coordinator assigned to the mobilization branch of the California National Guard.

"If VA doctors can't arrive at a diagnosis, they tend to ascribe the problem to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD]," says Monville, who also suffers from the chronic fatigue, aching joints and short-term memory loss that have become the trademarks of sick Gulf War veterans. "For an officer in the line of command, a PTSD diagnosis is the kiss of death to a career."

Indeed, DoD has stubbornly maintained from the beginning that stress or psychological disorders was the primary cause of the Gulf illness. "Nearly every veteran seeking medical attention was given the same diagnosis, even though the physiological symptoms persisted after taking antidepressants such as Prozac," a Legion spokesman told

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

the Senate Armed Forces Committee in September 1994. "Almost all veterans were given the same diagnosis for psychological problems and the physiological problems were not being addressed."

Nor is the mystery illness limited to American GIs, as U.S. government officials claim. The British have more than 1,500 on a nongovernment sponsored Gulf War illness registry. Canada, which only sent 2,500 to the Gulf, already has more than 30 sick veterans on its two-week-old registry. The World Health Organization and other health experts who have visited Kuwait report that illnesses among Kuwaitis is reaching epidemic proportions.

As American medical scientists continue to grapple with the Gulf War Syndrome, they cannot expect too much help from government circles. However, in October Congress authorized a \$20-million epidemiological study, which the Legion demanded must be done. To ensure the project is properly conducted, the Legion will hire medical and statistical specialists to monitor it (see "Watchdog For Veterans," Page 20).

Currently, the government is relying on more than 30 small scientific study projects. This "shotgun" approach to science, Legion experts say, is a major reason it has taken nearly 20 years to get anything done with Agent Orange.

At least with Agent Orange, Vietnam veterans knew what was causing their problems. But for Gulf War veterans, not even that small comfort exists. "If we just knew what was causing these problems, it would help," says Maj. Monville. "It's not knowing that really works on your mental attitude."

In an effort to separate fact from fiction, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE has conducted hours of interviews with experts and the veter-



CHILDREN, TOO—Steve Miller's son, born after Miller returned from the Gulf, has birth defects.

ans themselves. What has been pieced together, what is known and what is suspected about the Gulf War Syndrome is not a pretty picture.

According to all sources — government studies, medical experts and the victims — the Gulf War GI could have encountered three kinds of harmful agents: biological, chemical and radiological. Some occur naturally, some were manufactured and still others were created as weapons of war.

Biological exposures. The Gulf region is rife with diseases rarely encountered in the western world. Among the more worrisome native biological risks is a parasite known as leishmaniasis, which sand flies carry. Humans infected with the parasite experience pain and weakness.

In addition, U.S. troops may have been exposed to chemical and biological agents that were American-supplied. A report released in May by New York Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato and Sen. Riegle revealed that U.S. biological manufacturers had shipped several items that had the potential to be converted into chemical or biological warfare weapons.

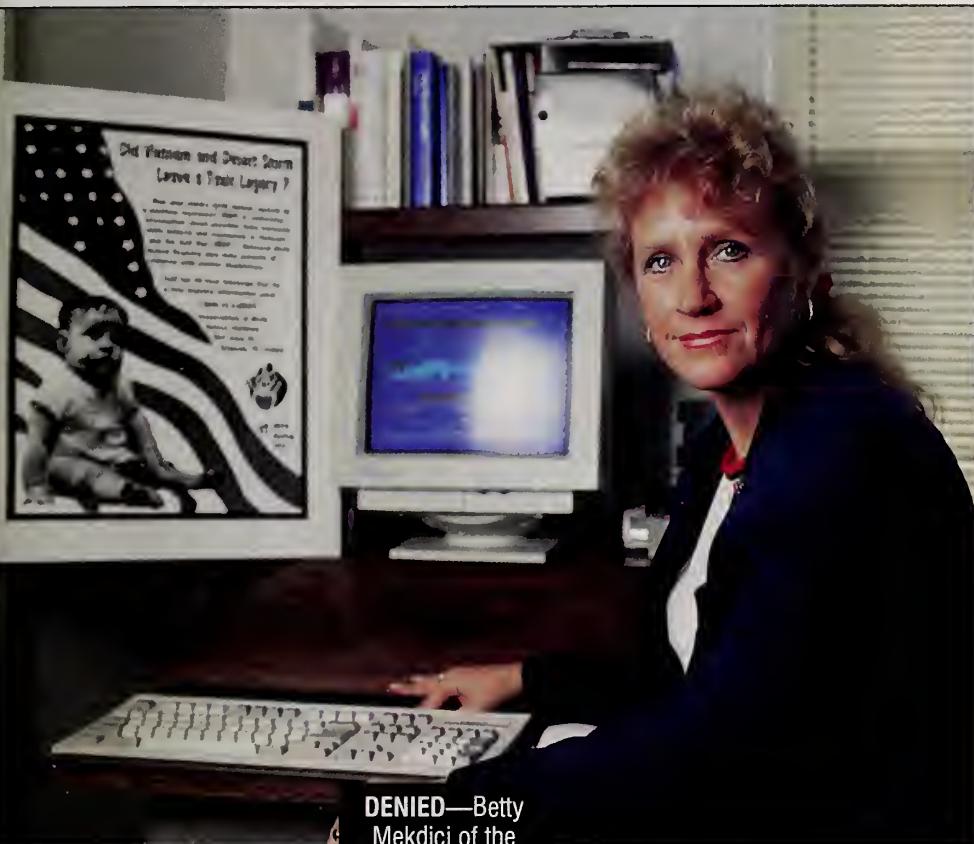
The shipments, which were under

license of the U.S. Commerce Commission, included varieties of anthrax, botulinum, tetanus and brucellosis, just to name a few.

This may have explained the substances found in some allied and Iraqi gas masks and filters given to Riegle's staff to be scientifically checked. The masks and filters had "a peculiar sticky yellow growth" on them, according to testimony at Senate hearings. The items were turned over to Livermore Labs in California, a leading biological research laboratory.

The lab's initial report released to Riegle revealed that unique fragments of the yellow growth's DNA were a strain of brucellosis and Q-fever. Both diseases can be found in the Gulf, but they are also commonly used as biological warfare agents. Follow-up analysis revealed that while initial DNA tests indicated the presence of these microorganisms, subsequent DNA comparisons did not match up. One possible explanation for this result is that these microorganisms might have been genetically altered biological agents.

But perhaps the most damning evidence of possible biological warfare



DENIED—Betty Mekdici of the Association of Birth Defect Children says DoD has ignored research.

weapons has come from Dr. Nancy Nicholson at a University of Texas research facility. She has isolated and identified a microorganism called *mycoplasma incognitus* and linked it to a disease known as Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS). The Texas researcher's tests on victims of CFIDS have all revealed the presence of the microorganism.

Two related developments make this an extremely important discovery.

First, the Pentagon and VA have diagnosed many Gulf War GIs and veterans with CFIDS. Second, Nicholson believes that *mycoplasma incognitus* is the result of recombinant DNA splicing. In other words, it is a modified, manufactured organism—a biological warfare germ.

Further evidence of biological exposure comes from Dr. Edward Hyman, a Louisiana researcher. Hyman discovered bacteria in yeast that existed in urine samples taken from sick Gulf veterans and has successfully treated some of them with massive doses of antibiotics.

Air Force Col. Douglas Hart, a DoD spokesman, says DoD had looked into the possibility of biologi-

cal agents in the Gulf War. Based on an analysis of battlefield intelligence, DoD concluded that "we have no confirmations of any chemical or biological

use of those types of weapons," Hart told THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

For many veterans this is simply not a satisfactory answer.

"There is strong evidence that our troops were exposed to chemical and biological agents," says VA&R Chairman Chet Stellar. "What is worse is that DoD may have known about it, but chose to cover it up under the guise of 'military security,'" he says.

Chemical exposures. One example of that "military security" is the Pentagon's dogged denial that any chemical warfare agents were detected during the Gulf War in spite of more than 1,000 eyewitness and unit reports of alarms sounded by electronic chemical sensors.

In one case, a captured Iraqi stor-

age tank was leaking copper-colored fumes from a bullet hole. Two Fox vehicles, equipped with mass spectrometers that identify chemical substances, independently confirmed the presence of mustard gas. So did other testing devices used by the military to detect poison gas. The Army says the Fox is the most advanced mobile chemical warfare detection system.

The Pentagon insists the fumes were nitric acid used for rocket fuel, but chemical experts say nitric acid bears no resemblance to mustard gas, either in appearance or chemical makeup.

DoD also claimed that no chemical warfare agents were detected on the uniforms of the personnel. Yet, eyewitnesses say the uniforms were burned on the spot and never subjected to testing.

Lt. Col. Bill Harkey, a spokesman for the Army in Washington, says the Army can neither confirm nor deny the presence of chemical warfare agents in the storage tank. Nevertheless, the Army saw fit to award its Meritorious Service Medal to members of a chemical detection unit. The citation accompanying the medal to the unit commander said the officer "supervised the positive identification of a suspected chemical agent."

DoD has an even harder time explaining away Army Pfc. David Fisher. Fisher had to be treated for burns he received from what his Army physician confirmed was a blister agent. Fisher was burned when he brushed against some crates marked with a skull and crossbones that were inside an Iraqi bunker. Chemical tests run in the field found traces of Lewisite, a blood agent, and mustard gas on Fisher's uniform; but DoD later reported that tests on his uniform indicated no chemical exposure.

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**WHERE
CAN YOU
GET HELP?**

SEE PAGE 80

HOT DOG HARRY

This Ohio Legionnaire spreads patriotism and goodwill while traveling across the world to feed U.S. troops a good old all-American meal.



By Frank Bentayou

IT ALL STARTED as a bet for Legionnaire and one-time hot dog vendor Harry Hirschinger. When he learned of a restaurant owner's plan to send hamburgers to U.S. Marines guarding the American embassy in Beirut in 1982, he said, "I bet her a cup of coffee I

Freelance writer Frank Bentayou wrote "A Campus Correctness Crusade" in the April 1994 issue of this magazine.

could get *real* American meals over there, hot dogs — and I'd take them myself!"

Harry won the wager. He hustled contributions of franks, air freight and money, and within months was transporting 1,875 dogs to the Marines as a Valentine's Day gift in 1983. He proudly shows pictures from his visit there: Harry serving hot dogs to a line of Marines in the city synonymous with random terror.

"The kids," he recalls, "were wonderful. They thought it was great somebody cared that much. They were so young and so dedicated to keeping the peace there."

Seven months later, the world

heard the awful news: Many of the Marines he had served had died tragically in a terrorist blast in their barracks. By December he was back in Beirut, this time with 1,900 more wieners. The emotional reunion capped months of hard labor tying down more donations of food, drinks, transportation. He dipped into his own savings, too.

"I had to go back," Harry says. "It's just such a small thing compared to what these young people were sacrificing," he says. "I was just taking them hot dogs. But they loved it."

Since then, Hirschinger has served hot dogs to the U.S. Armed Forces in Lebanon, Korea, Japan and the former



WITH RELISH—
Harry Hirschinger personally provides GIs with a taste of home, from Lebanon to Russia to Korea's DMZ.

Soviet Union. When asked why, he sums up his motivation very simply. "I love my country."

America began earning Harry's loyalty when he was still a child. Before World War II, his family fled Germany for Amsterdam, Holland, where Harry was born. As the pressure from the Third Reich grew in Holland, the family moved to New York.

The Hirschinger family took their patriotism seriously. When the United States went to war, Kurt, Harry's oldest brother, shipped out to Europe.

He was shot down on his final scheduled mission and imprisoned more than a year in a concentration camp.

Another brother, Walter, survived serious injuries on Iwo Jima as a young Marine.

While Harry never had to fight, he did do an Army hitch in the '50s. After his discharge, he went home to a sales job in the New York garment district. Eventually, his company moved him to Columbus, Ohio.

Times grew tough in the late '70s and Harry, by then with a family of his own, lost his job. "The industry looked bad then, so I decided to go into business for myself." An inspiration struck him.

"There were no street vendors in Columbus. You know, the kind with carts, like you see in big cities," he

says. Harry traveled to other cities, asked questions and, eventually, bought a second-hand cart for \$700. He began pushing it around town, franks on the fly for busy '80s yuppies.

Business grew. Soon he had a dozen carts, then 18. He was everywhere, from the city's center to the Ohio State University campus. Everyone ate Hot Dog Harry's dogs.

Then came the bet that changed his life, but Harry's story doesn't end there.

More than a year after his second trip to Beirut, he launched another journey, this one with franks and drinks for troops in the bleak hills of the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Again, Hirschinger accompanied his all-American meals and personally served them to thousands of far-from-home soldiers.

On this visit, he offered something new: hand-delivered letters by the hundreds from parents, spouses and sweethearts to military personnel. He also solicited letters from school kids in Ohio and carted them halfway around the globe to deliver them, alongside letters from just plain interested folks back home willing to write to lonely troops. He was taking Main Street to the boondocks — along with the all-American meal.

"They were incredibly pleased to get all these letters, all this attention," Harry says. "I think people in the armed services begin to wonder if folks back home have forgotten them. Taking hot dogs and letters over there is like a reminder: We care."

Communicating that care became an obsession. Harry mounted other trips, again patching financing together from donations, the occasional goodwill of the military and his own resources.

After the two trips to Lebanon, he took four forays to Korea and one to Moscow. There, in 1986, he fed 500 Marine guards at the U.S. embassy. He shows framed pictures of himself joking with enlisted men, standing arm-in-arm with Marine brass, and shoveling out food.

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ROBERT EISNER vs. PETER PETERSON

The Great

Deficit Debate

Nations, families and businesses borrow to build. That's why a deficit isn't bad, says one expert. Nonsense, says another. The U.S. deficit won't build a future, it will ruin it.

EVERY DAY of the week, the federal government spends \$600 million it does not have. Before the year is over, it will run up a deficit of about \$200 billion. That's in addition to the existing deficit that places the national debt at more than \$4 trillion.

Should we tighten our belts, cut spending and make do with the monies we have?

Definitely not, says Robert Eisner, a professor of economics at Northwestern, past president of the American Economic Association, and author of *The Misunderstood Economy: What Counts and How to Count It*.

While austerity might be the perfect solution for a spend-thrift family, for the nation it would be "devastating," he warns. Balance the budget now and the economy would go into recession, jobs would be lost, and benefits — including Social Security and veterans' benefits — might have to be cut. "The deficit is good for the average American," says Eisner.

Not true, says New York investment banker Peter Peterson, Secretary of Commerce in the Nixon administration and author of *Facing Up*. "We are mortgaging our children's future. We're eating well today and saddling our kids with a very expensive check for our free lunch. If we don't get our financial affairs in order, the American Dream could become the American Nightmare."

In this exclusive interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, Eisner and Peterson present opposing views on this critical issue. Who do you believe is right?

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: Is the budget deficit America's Number One problem?

PETERSON: As a nation, we face enormously challenging social and educational problems. Illiteracy, the eroding work ethic and quality of the future work force, crime, race rela-

tions, the decline of public education — all are serious problems.

But when we have huge deficits, the very public investments that could address these problems get crowded out of the budget. Maybe the deficit is not our most important problem. But it is a critical problem we know how to solve — and if we do, we will be in a far better position to tackle other problems.

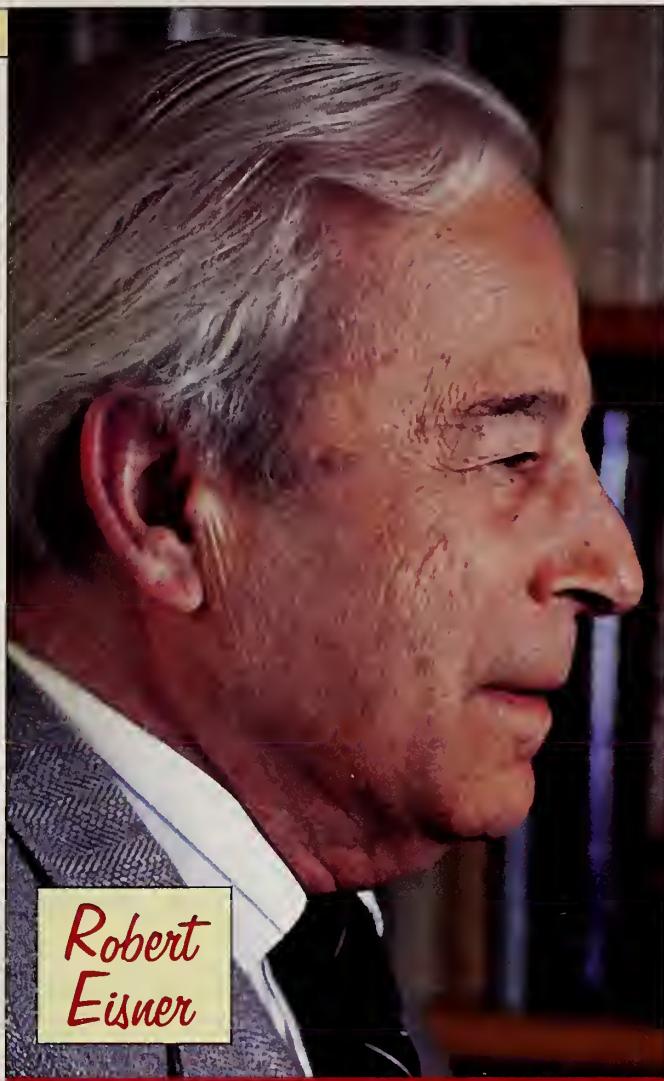
EISNER: As Mr. Peterson said, the United States has problems but "it's not the deficit, stupid," as *The New York Times* reviewer closed her review of my book. People think, "neither a borrower nor a lender be," but the reality is that our economy could scarcely function without debt. Private investment in homes and in businesses is financed largely by borrowing.

I agree with Mr. Peterson that we need more public investment in schools, roads, research and development. But like private investment, public investment ought to be financed by borrowing. Deficits can be too small as well as too large. Right now, we would benefit from a bigger deficit, both to finance needed public investment and to sustain our economic recovery.

Q. How big is the national debt?

EISNER: You'll hear figures as high as \$20 trillion, but that's including substantial *future* obligations — for Social Security, for instance — that we can expect to pay out of *future* tax revenues. The official total public debt is about \$4.5 trillion, a figure deficit hawks like to cite. But that too is overstated. It includes \$1 trillion in what amounts to an accounting entry — debts the federal government owes itself.

The actual debt held by the public is nearer \$3.4 trillion. How big is that? For individuals we relate debt to income.



**Robert
Eisner**



**Peter
Peterson**

HIGHLIGHTS

Should we balance the federal budget?

"Only an ignoramus would propose doing it today. Jobs would be lost. The nation would plunge into recession. Right now, we would benefit from a larger deficit to sustain our economic recovery."

"A balanced budget would have negative consequences only if we do it too fast. Long term consequences are all to the good — more savings and a higher standard of living."

Is the deficit growing?

"It's coming down sharply. The people who persist in screaming about it are fighting an old war that has been won. The deficit is way down."

"Mr. Eisner may be the only economist in America who thinks this problem is going away. He suffers from a serious case of short-termitis."

How does the deficit matter?

"Deficit hawks like to say each child is born owing \$17,000, but you could just as well say he is born with a nest egg of \$17,000 in government securities."

"That's utterly absurd. There is a profound difference between a nest egg that could be invested to produce growth and a debt the young will have to pay."

Should we cut entitlement programs?

"Let's not cut entitlements. Why sock the elderly on Social Security, by far our biggest entitlement program? Entitlements in the United States are much less than in much of the rest of the world."

"There is no solution for the national debt without cutting entitlements. Unless we confront entitlement spending now, our kids can look forward to the American Nightmare."

For a government, we look to the national economy. The United States is the world's most productive economy, and it's growing. If we look at it that way, the debt isn't a problem now, or in the predictable future.

And remember this: Federal accounting policies would make any private accountant shudder. Long-term investments are counted in the current deficit. If private businesses did that, most of our biggest corporations would be showing "deficits" — in other words, losses.

PETERSON: Mr. Eisner casually dismisses factors that make the debt devastatingly larger. Those "future obligations" he mentions are in fact unfunded federal liabilities that amount to over \$14 trillion. That's benefits — for Social Security, Medicare, federal pensions — we've promised but haven't provided the taxes for. Eisner can talk about how the debt is overstated, but if the government used any reasonable accounting standard, as required in the private sector, the debt would turn out to be *immensely* understated.

Q. Would jobs be lost if we balanced the budget?

EISNER: Many jobs would be lost and the nation would plunge back into recession. Only an ignoramus would propose balancing the budget today. Cut the deficit and the spending of individuals will go down. Is that better, or worse, for GM, home builders, IBM? Would GM build a new plant if we're not buying cars? Will it hire more workers? Of course not.

Deficit hawks talk about long-term benefits of a balanced budget but I believe the long-term is a succession of short-terms and no one can tell me that putting the United States into recession today will help us tomorrow.

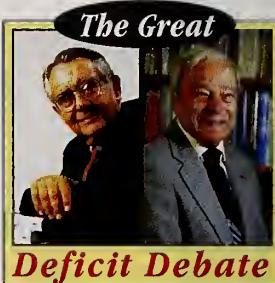
PETERSON: A balanced budget would have negative short-term consequences only if we try to reach it too fast. That's why in *Facing Up* I outline a plan over six years that gives the economy ample time to adjust. Furthermore, Mr. Eisner ignores the good that would come from this in the short-term.

I asked Alan Greenspan [chairman of the Federal Reserve] what the result of a balanced budget would be. He said long-term, real interest rates would fall about 2 percent, and that would have staggering effects on investment, creating many new jobs. People pretend balancing the budget would be an economic disaster, but they're overlooking the positive consequences.

Q. Is America's budget deficit growing?

EISNER: No, in fact it's coming down sharply. As President Bush was departing, his Office of Management and Budget [OMB] projected the fiscal year '93 deficit at \$327 billion. Less than nine months later, as fiscal '93 ended, the deficit was actually \$255 billion. In the current fiscal year it's expected to be about \$200 billion. We can debate whether the deficit matters, but the people who persist in screaming about it are fighting an old war that has been won. The deficit is way down.

PETERSON: Mr. Eisner's comment astonishes me. Sure,



we are getting some temporary progress after last year's struggle to pass a deficit-reducing budget. But I know of no one at OMB or the General Accounting Office [GAO] who doesn't concur that the deficit will grow rapidly later in the decade, reaching \$400 billion annually shortly after the turn of the century. Frankly, I think Mr. Eisner suffers from a serious case of "short-termitis." It's time we focus on the long-term problem.

Q. Mr. Peterson, why do you say the deficit will grow sharply?

PETERSON: We're facing a demographic time bomb, as Baby Boomers become "Senior Boomers" and start collecting Social Security and Medicare. An enormous demographic change will occur in America, starting around 2010. People over 65 years of age will grow in numbers by 125 to 150 percent. While we used to have 16.5 taxpaying workers per retiree, today we have 3.2. That means just three young workers are expected to support every retiree. By 2040 it could be 1.6 to 1.

EISNER: Mr. Peterson's worries about his "demographic bomb" are exaggerated. What we'll have are more elderly people as a percentage of population, but we'll also have fewer young people, that is, ones not yet in the labor force. The percentage of population of working age won't change much and that is the key number in terms of supporting the nonworking population.

PETERSON: It's ludicrous to mix the elderly and children together. On a per-capita basis, federal spending on the elderly exceeds that of children by 11 to 1, so a decline in the number of children won't do much for the budget. And I can say this because I myself am an old fogey. I was brought up to believe in spending money on children. You train and educate them. That's investing in the future. However, spending money on seniors like me is pure consumption.

EISNER: As for Mr. Peterson's \$400 billion deficit "shortly after the turn of the century," the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects the deficit at \$212 billion in '99. The larger point, though, is that projecting into the next century and trying to act on it now is absurd. Bush's OMB, as I pointed out, overestimated the '93 deficit by 28 percent and they were already in '93. The budget can always be adjusted when we have to, but it's the economy and the prosperity of the American people that are the real issues, not the budget.

Q. Does the deficit matter to the average American?

PETERSON: Most economists I know think it matters a lot. What's the purpose of economic activity? To increase the average worker's real income and therefore his living standards.

Yet, for the first time in this country's history, real incomes have been flat over the past 20 years. Why? Productivity growth has stagnated. But every study shows a strong link between investment and productivity. No matter where you look — plants and equipment, research and development —

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PILE HIGH—
We weren't
running out of
landfills, just
small, badly run,
poisonous local
garbage dumps.

TONY STONE IMAGES

WE'RE WINNING THE GARBAGE WAR

By Norm Crampton

FIVE YEARS ago, lots of Americans were worried about garbage. Taking it out was no longer a mildly pleasurable act of household cleansing. For many of us, toting the trash to the curb had become a big guilt trip.

Forecasts of disappearing dump space had us down in the dumps. A tidal wave of trash was about to bury us under our wasteful lifestyles, or so we thought at the time. The cover story on the Nov. 27, 1989, issue of *Newsweek* was typical: 'BURIED

*Exaggerated cries
of a garbage
"crisis" scared us
into recycling and
cutting back on
trash. Good thing,
too.*



ALIVE . . . An Environmental Crisis Reaches Our Doorstep."

Here we are more than five years later, and things look pretty tidy, garbage-wise. What happened to the "crisis?" Did we solve it or did it just go away? The answer is, some of both.

In fact, there really wasn't a garbage crisis in the first place — we weren't running out of garbage dumps. We were running out of badly managed, poisonous, small, local dumps, and most of them have now closed. But the hyped-up shortage of dump space led us to reform some wasteful ways. During the past five years we have:

- Learned how to recycle, cutting a big slice out of the old household garbage load.
- Nudged manufacturers to package products in less material and use more recycled ingredients.
- Cheerfully told check-out clerks to skip the bag for small purchases.
- Started to pay our full, fair,

household share for garbage service — a sharp spur to waste reduction.

Yet we're reluctant to take credit for our efforts, possibly because garbage bulletins often aren't so optimistic. They are saying, if we've really reformed and are winning the garbage war, what about those reports telling us we are producing more garbage than ever before?

For instance, in 1970, total U.S. garbage divided by population equaled 3 pounds per person per day. In 1990, total U.S. garbage divided by population equaled 4 pounds per person per day.

That may look like business as usual in "The Throwaway Society," but it's not, according to Marge Franklin, president of a Kansas firm that tracks "municipal solid waste" — the technical term for all our household leftovers. Franklin says that the total garbage figure also includes things we recycle.

There's evidence of change in Delaware, for one place. N.C. Vasuki, head of the Delaware Solid Waste Authority, says garbage production in his state on a per-person basis peaked in 1989 and has been declining since 1991. Recycling is the reason.

It's easy to understand why we became nearly hysterical about garbage a few years ago. We had seen the infamous "Garbage Barge" sail port to port looking for a dump. And other environmental matters were clamoring for attention and action—acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming.

But garbage was something we could understand. And the front line of defense against garbage — recycling — was kids' play. In fact, in many households kids brought the lessons home from school and taught their parents.

Recycling has spread like wildfire. One survey reports 101 million Americans — up 24 million in a year —

Norm Crampton is executive director of the Indiana Institute of Recycling and author of The 100 Best Small Towns in America. He wrote "Keeping Smalltown U.S.A. on The Map" in the February 1994 issue of this magazine.

WIDE WORLD



FLOTSAM — In 1987, the Garbage Barge, barred from port in four states and two countries, symbolized alarmists' claims.



now receive curbside collection of their old newspapers, advertising mail, empty food and beverage containers, cardboard boxes and the like. At last count there was curb service in 6,678 cities and towns. That's a huge increase compared to about a thousand programs only five years ago.

During the same period, garbage dumps — landfills, as they are called by the pros — dropped from 8,000 to less than 4,400. But that reduction may not be as startling as it seems. At any given time, it's fairly accurate to say that half the dumps will close in five years. Just as cars wear out and are replaced, dumps fill up and are replaced.

The decline in total dumps is main-

ly a result of tough new federal regulations that have padlocked a large number of leaky old sites. The new dumps are environmentally much better and bigger. That is one reason why Ed Repa, the research director at Environmental Industry Associations, believes total dump space has remained fairly constant during the past five years.

The big change with dumps is they are getting farther away: Seattle, an outstanding recycling city, loads its nonrecyclable leftovers on a garbage train for shipment 325 miles to a disposal site in eastern Oregon.

But the best news, perhaps, is that Americans may really have reformed and given up their garbage-spreading ways. Recycling programs are here to



IN 1970, garbage production equalled 3 pounds per person per day. In 1990, the average was 4 pounds—but that's before recycling. At least one state, Delaware, finds garbage has peaked and is now on the decline, thanks to recycling.

**1990 4 lbs/day
1970 3 lbs/day**

GARBAGE UP

IN 1989, before the garbage "crisis" took center stage, Americans recycled about 9% of their trash. By 1993 we were recycling 19%—a big increase in a short time. Can we maintain that pace? The rising cost of garbage service is an incentive.

**1993 19%
1989 9%**

RECYCLING UP

IN 1973, one month of garbage collection cost a typical American household \$2.92. By 1990, the price was \$8.06—still a bargain if you consider inflation. As disposal costs ratchet higher, cities charge by the can, but include recycling service.

**1990 \$8.06
1973 \$2.92**

COST UP

stay. They're hugely popular with the public, and industry has invested an estimated \$15 billion so far in gearing up to handle recycled raw materials.

You hear less about the success of recycling these days, experts say, because it has become a routine part of so many households and communities.

Yet prices for recycled materials are shaky. The problem is simple: supply—large and growing larger—is chasing demand, which is small, but gaining. Thus, supplies of old newspaper, plastic jugs and other items periodically pile up. Pete Grogan, former president of the National Recycling Coalition, isn't worried. He points out that recyclables, like all commodities, will have their ups and downs in price.

A better indicator is how recycling is reducing the other GNP—the "Gross National Pile." In 1989, recycling reduced 9 percent of it. This year, according to best estimates, recycling will reduce our garbage by 19 percent, including yard wastes such as grass, leaves and brush.

And the buying public
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SEATTLE'S CLEAN SWEEP

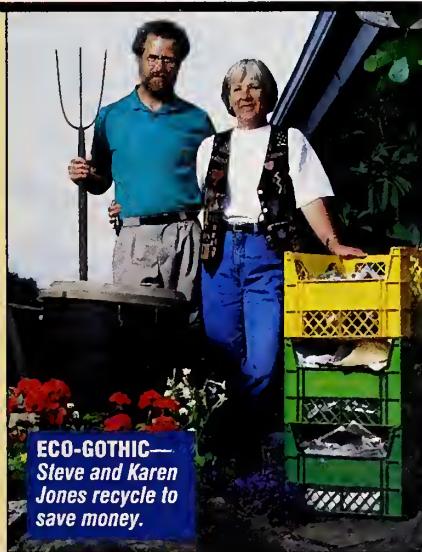
STEVE AND Karen Jones, a 40-something professional couple in Seattle, generate a heap of garbage for a two-person household. He's a veterinarian and she's a schoolteacher. They bring home loads of paper and receive more in the mail. They entertain, and like to cook and garden—all "trashy" pursuits at the end of the day. And costly, if they were tossing all the leftovers away.

Garbage service in Seattle is billed by the can. Steve pays for one

32-gallon can of garbage per week at \$14.98 a month. If he needed two cans a week, he'd have to pay \$29.96 each month, etc. Pretty pricey trash.

The Seattle garbage plan has caught on in many other places. The idea is to change behavior—reduce the volume of garbage by charging plenty for it and encourage recycling by offering it "free," meaning the cost is built in. The strategy works. Before pay-by-the-can was intro-

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ECO-GOTHIC—
Steve and Karen Jones recycle to save money.

J REINKING/MERCURY

COMMENTARY

IS ANYTHING MADE IN THE USA ANYMORE?



The answer is that many things are made here, and they are made exceptionally well. Surprisingly, our products get more respect overseas than in the heartland of America.

By Joel D. Joseph

THE AMERICA Series shirt by Perry Ellis, the Official NBA Basketball and the official Major League Baseball, GI Joe action figures, Nike, Reebok and L.A. Gear athletic shoes, American Tourister luggage and

Joel D. Joseph is chairman and founder of the Made in the USA Foundation, a 60,000-member, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting American products in the United States and overseas.

Bell telephones have two things in common:

They sound distinctly American, and they are not made in the United States.

A recent television commercial trumpets the new Chevrolet Camaro — “From the Country that brought you Rock ‘n’ Roll.” Quite frankly I didn’t realize that Canada brought us Rock and Roll — the new Camaro is assembled north of the border.

Many people have asked me, “Isn’t anything made in the United States anymore?” The answer is that many things are made here, and they are made exceptionally well. Surprisingly, we get more respect overseas than we do in the heartland of America.

HOMEBUYERS — The number of Americans who decided against buying foreign goods grew from 21 percent in 1985 to more than 50 percent in 1994, according to the Made In The USA Foundation.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IBM, CHRYSLER CORP., WILSON SPORTING GOODS, SATURN





AMERICA'S BEST

These product categories top the list of import busters that have had the largest impact on saving American jobs and reducing the deficit. See article for the names of specific companies and products.

- Automobiles
- Laser Printers
- Personal Computers
- Cellular Telephones
- Beer & Wine
- Clothing & Shoes
- Copiers
- Televisions

Do you think that U.S. manufacturers don't make quality products anymore? You're wrong. In fact, Japan's national telephone company, Nippon Telephone and Telegraph Company, is buying "state of the art" equipment from, guess who, AT&T. Kimio Tazaki, executive director of NT&T's Network Systems Development Center, says "AT&T has the most advanced technology in the world."

U.S. industry still leads the world in technology from electronics and aerospace to sporting goods and food production. It comes as a surprise to many Americans that we produce more electronic products than Japan. In Europe, American computers dominate the market, with IBM in first place and Apple in third. Toshiba is the largest Japanese computer company in Europe, in seventh place, with a meager market share.

In Japan, it is a status symbol to wear American sportswear and to use American golf clubs. U.S.-made Spalding golf balls are the world leader, yet Spalding's "Official NBA Basketball" is made in South Korea.

I can understand inexpensive products being made offshore, but why does an all-leather, top-of-the-line, officially licensed product which sells for \$60 have to be imported? (The Wilson Official NFL football is made in the U.S.A.). After all, basketball was invented and perfected in the U.S.A., and NBA player's salaries average about a million dollars a season. The NBA (as well as other major American sports leagues) should refuse to license products which are manufactured overseas. A "Dallas Cowboys" football hat made in China presents conflicting loyalties to most die-hard fans.

Rather than hiring low-paid workers in Asia to make American sporting goods, we should be hiring unemployed American workers (including those who didn't have the talent to make the major leagues) to produce and sell real All-American products. As a sports fan, and a

consumer, I would rather pay \$1 or \$2 more for a team hat or souvenir made in the good old U.S. of A. than an imported one.

CAR WARS

The trade war with Japan is primarily being fought with automobiles. The U.S. trade deficit with Japan totals \$60 billion, with more than half of the deficit due directly to automobiles and auto parts.

Even though they favor their own market, the Japanese have respect for American workmanship, particularly the Honda Corporation. Honda is manufacturing its sleek Honda Accord Coupe and its new Honda Stationwagon only in Marysville, Ohio, and plans to export 50,000 per year of them to Japan.

The Accord Stationwagon was designed from the ground up in the U.S.A. and will be exported to Europe and Japan. Thanks to Honda, U.S. auto exports to Japan increased significantly last year.

According to a recent survey of prospective automobile purchasers conducted by the Made in the USA Foundation, most consumers do not know where cars are made. More than 75 percent of American consumers surveyed thought that the Pontiac LeMans was made in the U.S.A., when in fact it is made in South Korea.

The majority wrongly believed that the Honda Accord was imported from Japan. Similarly, *Motor Trend* magazine awarded the Honda Accord its Import Car of the Year award for 1994 even though the Accord is made in Marysville, Ohio.

A significant problem, then, is determining what products are made where, so that consumers can make informed purchasing decisions. Because of this confusion in the marketplace, the Made in the USA Foundation was able to convince Congress that a new law was needed: The American Automobile Labeling Act became law in the Fall of 1994. It requires all new cars to include the U.S. content of the car on the price sticker. Because of this law every Saturn will proudly announce that it is 98 percent American.

On the other hand the number of Americans who want to buy American products is rising. According to Cambridge Reports, the number of Americans who made a conscious decision against buying foreign products



U.S. INDUSTRY still leads the world in technology, from electronics and aerospace to sporting goods and food production.

increased from 21 percent in 1985 to 39 percent in 1989. Made in the USA estimates that, in 1994, it now surpasses 50 percent. In automobiles, the U.S. marketshare has increased from 73 percent to 75 percent since 1992.

THE 10 BIGGEST IMPORT BUSTERS

These are the 10 products or product categories that have the largest impact in reducing the American trade deficit, according to our studies.

1. Neon automobiles
2. Saturn automobiles
3. Ford Taurus
4. Lexmark (formerly IBM) laser printers
5. American personal computers with Intel or Motorola microprocessors
6. Motorola cellular telephones
7. American beer and wine
8. American clothing and shoes
9. Xerox copiers
10. Pro Scan televisions

VICTORS IN THE CAR WARS

The Saturn is taking the Asian imports on head-on. General Motors assigned its top engineers to the Saturn division, already resulting in 16 patents being issued for improvements to automobile technology. Saturn has 15 other patent applications pending, and Saturn engineers developed the sixth generation of anti-lock brakes.

Joining in the battle is the new

Dodge/Plymouth Neon. Chrysler Corporation has decided that it can replace its Mitsubishi-built Colts with a superior American-made product. The new Neon all by itself will save thousands of American jobs and turn a billion dollar corner in the trade imbalance with Japan.

COMPUTER PRINTERS

IBM introduced the first U.S.-made computer laser printer a few years ago. This product, which now sells under the Lexmark name, is important because the market for these fast printers is several billion dollars. Previously all laser printers were made in Japan, even Hewlett-Packard's laser jet.

MOTOROLA CALLING

Motorola is ahead of the world in cellular telephone technology, with a two-year lead over Japanese rivals. A few years ago Motorola introduced the lightest portable cellular phone, the MicroTac, for \$2,500. Now the Motorola flip phones sell for far less than \$500.

BREWING BEER BATTLE

America is one of the most open markets in the world. Beer is a good example.

We charge an import duty of only 13 cents per case of beer, about one-half penny per bottle or can. On the other hand, Canada completely bans the import of American beer. Germany, Holland and England, three of the largest beer exporters, charge \$2.94 a case for imports of American beer. To protest this, a small Philadelphia brewer, the Dock Street Brewery, is putting its labels on upside down and will continue to do so until beer duties are equalized.

Meanwhile, follow the advice of brewmeister James Koch of the Boston Beer Company (brewers of Sam Adams beer): "Drink the local brew." He advises that beer freshness is the most important ingredient of good beer. So drink American and tell those German beer snobs that their brew is stale.

Even the French are beginning to recognize that American wines are world class. French wine expert Michel Laroche has become an unabashed admirer of California chardonnay. He regularly uses California wines in blind tastings (where the drinker does not know the source of

Please turn to page 94

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C. U.S. Army Field Jacket. 3/4 length top grain leather. Four snap close front pockets, one inside & two side entry pockets, epaulets, snap & zippered front. Drawstring waist. Imported. Compare at \$199.

D. Stearman Style Vest. Top-grain leather. Cotton lining and knitted waist-band. Front zipper with snap closures. One inside & two side entry pockets. Imported. Compare at \$185.

E. G-1 Navy Flight Jacket. Medium weight top grain leather. Original 1944 pattern. Contoured pocket flaps. Under arm gussets and bi-swing back. Compare at \$325.

F. B-7 Flight Jacket. Soft and supple, premium top grain leather. Oversized jacket features side and top entry pockets. A truly outstanding design in a military style jacket. Compare at \$349.

G. B-3 Sheepskin Jacket. Made from superior shearling pelts chosen for luxurious thickness, texture, and unsurpassed warmth. Compare at \$425.

H. B-15. Flight Jacket. Premium, top grain leather. Smooth nylon satin lining with removable 3M Thinsulate® lining. Detachable lamb fur collar with full leather under collar. Compare at \$375.

I. G-8 Type 440 USN Flight Jacket. Antique finish, premium top grain leather. Underarm gussets, zippered cuffs, interior pocket, side belts, front cargo pockets and USN elbow patches. Compare at \$350.

J. Pilot's Leather Flight Bag. Top grain leather with 2 handles, zippered closure, 2 buckled flap pockets and adjustable shoulder strap. Measures 19" L x 12" H x 9" W. Imported. Compare at \$249

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F. \$279 **NEW**

G. \$299 **NEW**

H. \$249 **NEW**

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SICK GULF WAR FAMILIES TO BE TESTED

CONGRESS has directed VA to conduct medical exams and tests on sick spouses and children of Persian Gulf veterans. For family members to be eligible, the veteran must be listed on VA's Persian Gulf Registry and the spouse or child must be ill or suffer from disorders such as birth defects, miscarriages or stillbirths that could be the result of the veteran's service in the Gulf.

VA must get the spouses' permission to include their medical data on the registry. The tests will be used to determine if there is a link between the veterans' health problems and those of family members. Of 400 sick Gulf veterans interviewed by then-Michigan Sen. Donald W. Riegle in May 1994, 75 percent of their spouses reported medical problems.

Some \$2 million has been allocated by Congress for the tests, which are to begin in February.

The tests are just one of the provisions of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1994 (PL103-446). The law also:

- Requires VA to develop guidelines to grant compensation to Gulf War veterans suffering from as-yet undiagnosed illnesses.
- Establishes performance review procedures for members of the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Atomic Victims

Veterans who participated in atomic tests and who are now suffering from tumors of the brain and the central nervous system may be eligible for service-connected compensation, according to new VA regulations. In the past, veterans had to prove the tumors were caused by exposure to ionizing radiation.

However, the presence of tumors does not automatically guarantee compensation, says VA. Claims will be decided on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the veteran's age when exposed, the estimated amount of radiation, the length of time the veteran was exposed and how long it took before tumors appeared.

Atomic veterans suffering from these tumors should contact their nearest American Legion Service Officer to file a claim.

Philippine Medals

World War II veterans who served at least 30 days in the Philippines from Oct. 17, 1944 to Sept. 3, 1945, are eli-

gible for the Philippine Liberation Medal (PLM). The medal is free from the Philippine government.

Other medals are available for \$7 each. They include the:

- Philippine Defense Medal (PDM). Eligibility dates are from Dec. 7, 1941 to June 15, 1942.
- Philippine Independence Medal, which is available to veterans who have been awarded both the PDM and the PLM.
- Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge. Eligibility dates are from Dec. 7, 1941, to May 10, 1942, and during 1944-45 campaigns.
- World War II Victory Medal. Available to veterans who served any time between Dec. 7, 1941, to December 1946.
- Asia-Pacific Campaign Medal. For veterans with at least 30 days continuous service in the Asia-Pacific Theater between Dec. 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946.

To apply for the medals, veterans must submit a copy of their discharge, DD-214 or other military documents

- Accepts, in most claims cases, the veteran's written statement as proof of marriage, divorce, birth or death of a family member. Previously, veterans had to provide certified copies of these documents.

- Directs VA to accept a private physician report on a veteran's health condition for claims, if the doctor's report is sufficiently complete for adjudication.

- Establishes a Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission to study and evaluate the claims system and to find ways to reduce the number of pending claims and improve the delivery of benefits.

- Grants U.S. veterans who participated in allied atomic tests the same benefits as those who took part in U.S. atomic tests.

- Establishes as service-connected for veterans exposed to Agent Orange: Hodgkin's disease and multiple myeloma; porphyria cutanea tarda, if it appeared within one year after leaving Vietnam; and cancers of the lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea, if contracted within 30 years after leaving Vietnam.

- Calls for establishing a panel to determine the feasibility of studying the health effects on families of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation.

- Establishes a VA Center for Minority Veterans and a Center for Women Veterans.

establishing service in the Philippines. Write to: Defense and Armed Forces Affairs Office, Embassy of the Philippines, Veterans Affairs Section, 1600 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; or call 1-202-467-9409.

Drugs By Mail

Veterans, active duty personnel and their families eligible for the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) may soon be able to receive their prescription drugs by mail. The Department of Defense has begun a two-year test of the CHAMPUS prescription mail service in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Active duty families pay \$4 per prescription while all other eligible users pay \$8. Veterans formerly eligible for CHAMPUS who are now on Medicare also qualify for the service if they live in certain ZIP code areas near a closed military base. For more information, call Health Care Systems at 1-800-633-2426. □

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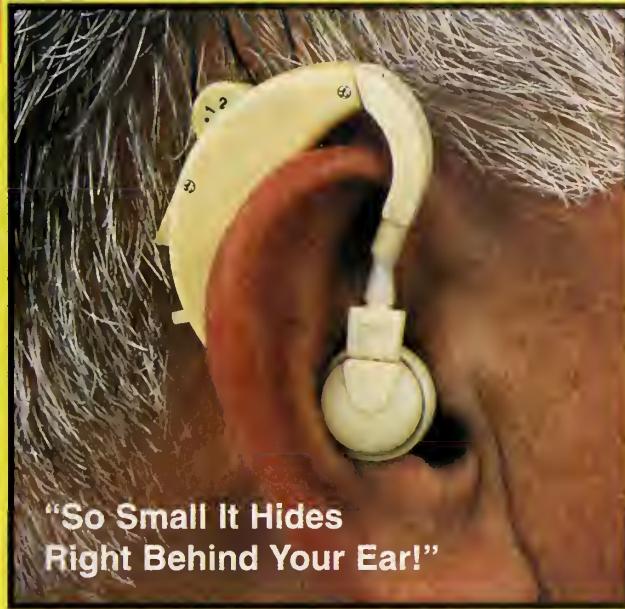
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SIGN UP TO PROTECT THE FLAG

THE CITIZENS Flag Alliance (CFA) plans to present Congress with 20 million signatures of Americans who want the U.S. Flag protected by a constitutional amendment.

As of press time in mid-November, the CFA had already collected 2 million signatures from individuals, and 75 organizations representing more than 27 million Americans had joined the Citizens Flag Alliance.

"Our petition drive is rapidly moving forward," said CFA President Daniel S. Wheeler. "Get out to the malls, fairs, churches, parks and grocery stores to give the people a chance to speak out for what they believe in."

To get your petition to support the Flag, call (800) 424-FLAG.

Wheeler also reported that the message of protect-

ing the Flag has been spread through the media nationwide. He said the alliance is in the process of getting legislators to commit to passing a constitutional amendment to protect the Flag.

The amendment would allow Congress and the states to pass legislation protecting the Flag from physical desecration.

Already, 188 members of the House and 24 senators have agreed to co-sponsor such legislation. Wheeler said the number of congressional co-sponsors is growing weekly.

State governors also have sent the CFA letters supporting the amendment. "In the Gulf War, the Vietnam War and the Korean War, World War I and II, and the Civil War, many men and women fought and died to protect

our nation and our Flag," Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice wrote CFA. "It is a disgrace to desecrate something our country has long held so dear. The American Flag should always be held in the highest regard as a symbol of our nation, proud and strong."

And from Gov. Jim Edgar of Illinois: "As citizens of the United States, it is our duty to reaffirm the honor and respect our Flag so richly deserves. This campaign is an outstanding tribute to freedom and democracy."

The American Legion's campaign to gain nationwide support for a Flag amendment began even before the Citi-

zens Flag Alliance was formed last August.

For example, 44 states have passed memorializing resolutions supporting such an amendment. These states represent 94 percent of the U.S. population — more than 234 million people. The six states that have yet to pass resolutions are Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. □



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Call the Citizens Flag Alliance hotline 1-800-424-FLAG to make your donation, or for more information.



ALL'S IN THE FAMILY— Post 22 of Hood River, Ore., boasts having two brothers and a sister who have served as Post commanders. From left, Roy Elliott, commander in 1980-81; Reta Byrd, the trio's mother; Betty Luther, current commander; and Alan Elliott, the 1985-86 commander.

New National Historian Named

CARL S. Wipperman, 68, of Everett, Wash., has been selected to fill the remaining National Historian term of M. LaReine Maxey, who was killed in an automobile accident in October. National Commander William Detweiler appointed Wipperman during the Legion's Fall Meeting in Indianapolis.

Wipperman, a retired Army sergeant first class, is a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

A member of Post 127 of Bothell, Wash., Wipperman has

served on the National Convention Parade Committee, and is a member of the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion and the National American Legion Press Association. He was Department of Washington Vice Commander in 1986-87 and Department Historian from 1987 until his current appointment. At the local level, Wipperman has been Post Commander and Adjutant, and editor of the Post newsletter.

He and his wife, Ruth, have one child, Maria Baird. □



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Proof Sets include all coins from the Cent to the Half Dollar. And 1973-1981 Sets also include the legendary Eisenhower Dollars and Susan B. Anthony Dollars.



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CONNECTICUT TOWN CELEBRATES V-J DAY

FOR 33 years, rain or shine, at precisely 1:01 p.m. — the exact time the Japanese surrendered — Post 91 of Moosup, Conn., has honored WWII veterans with a V-J Day parade.

Similar parades were common after the end of World War II, but Post 91

and Moosup's 4,000 residents claim to have the only such parade now existing in the country.

Post 91 Commander Bill Poprosky says the parade, which is conducted on the Sunday closest to Aug. 14, continues to grow. Many of the 365 Legionnaires in Post 91 work all year raising money and organizing the



WALK THE WALK—More than 230 units and 5,000 marchers participated in last year's V-J Day parade sponsored by Post 91 of Moosup, Conn.

POSTS SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM OSHA REGULATIONS

THOUSANDS of Legion Posts would go bankrupt if they had to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) proposed new indoor air quality standards, said National Commander William Detweiler.

Testifying before OSHA officials in Washington, D.C., last October, Detweiler said renovations required to meet the air quality standards could cost many of the Legion's nearly 15,000 Posts between \$6,000 and \$12,000.

OSHA's proposed new

law would require employers to either ban smoking or provide separately ventilated, segregated smoking areas. OSHA regulators recently recommended listing structures such as Post homes as "non-industrial work sites."

The new classification would require Posts to comply with the OSHA standards.

In addition to costs of new heating and air-conditioning equipment, Posts would need to hire new employees and train them in monitoring air quality, maintenance and record keeping.

"These standards would

parade.

"We're pretty proud of it," says Poprosky. "Everybody around here wants to remember those who fought and those who didn't come back."

Last year's parade saw more than 15,000 spectators lined the streets as about 5,000 participants in 230 entries marched the mile and one-half route. Veterans from as far away as Ohio traveled to the eastern Connecticut town to participate in the parade.

Planning for this year's 50th anniversary V-J Day parade on Aug. 13 began years ago. Poprosky says he expects about 300 entries and 6,000 to 8,000 participants, including color guards from Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio and a re-enactment of the Flag raising at Iwo Jima, using authentic uniforms and weapons.

"The 50th anniversary," according to Poprosky, "is going to be big, real big." □

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Post 12 of Yankton, S.D., delivers groceries to local elderly and others physically unable to shop for themselves.

Post 1254 of Binghamton, N.Y., received the National Star (Region II) award of The American Legion for its "Safe Kids" program, in which 1,200 school children were finger-printed last year.

After many years of work, **Post 253 of Bronx, N.Y.**, opened the Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park in New York City. The adjacent roadway was named Veterans Memorial Drive.

Post 1 of Tulsa, Okla., purchased a 15-passenger van for The American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City. Post 1 claims the home is the only child-care facility in the United States for children of veterans.

Aaron Morah, a member of **Post 85 of Miami Beach, Fla.**, may be the oldest and largest blood donor in The American Legion. At 82, Morah has donated 26 gallons of blood during his lifetime.

Volunteers from the **Seventh District of Wisconsin** remodeled a fish pond in Tomah, Wis., which they named "American Legion Fish Pond." Seven thousand dollars was spent by the District, who installed wheelchair ramps and sidewalks near the pond, which took four years to complete.

For 22 years, volunteers from **Post 284 of Colonial Heights, Va.**, have been driving local senior citizens to grocery stores and doctor appointments. □

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THE RACE TO OREGON IS ON

THE membership trail to the National Convention in Portland, Ore., leads through Indianapolis for the winners of the annual Race to the Top competition. For top-notch membership efforts, five District Commanders will receive choice seats at the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and the 500 Festival Parade and attend other Memorial Day weekend festivities.

The all-expenses-paid, get-away weekend in the Hoosier capital will go to the five District Comman-



1995 MEMBERSHIP TRAIL
THE AMERICAN LEGION

ders who achieve the greatest percent increase in their District membership. They and their spouse or guest will receive round-trip airfare and first-class hotel accommodations for four nights during the weekend of May 25-28.

The second-place prize of \$500 will be presented to five District Commanders whose membership in 1995 represents the second highest percentage over their District 1994 membership.

Five District Commanders will receive \$375 gift certificates for taking third

place in the competition.

District commanders will compete in one of five categories based on final membership totals as of March 31, 1995. The five categories are: Category I, 15 to 1,499 members; Category II, 1,500 to 2,999 members; Category III, 3,000 to 4,999 members; Category IV, 5,000 to 7,499 members; and Category V for Districts with 7,500 or more members.

For more information about The Race to the Top competition, write to: The American Legion, Membership Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Members from Post 370 of Overland Park, Kan., presented a check for \$1,100 to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The Post raised money by collecting aluminum cans.

Members from Post 160 of Seattle, Wash., devoted their time and energy for an area Special Olympics Soccer tournament. Members brewed hundreds of cups of coffee, passed out over 600 cookies and served 15 gallons of orange drink.

Post 177 of Fairfax, Va., collected more than \$60,000 in cash-register receipts to purchase computer software for local schools.

Post 117 of Pendleton, Ind., distributes 10 scholarships every year to high school seniors who make significant contributions to their community.

For the past five years, Post 258 of Springfield, La., has donated \$250,000 to the local fire department, which enabled firefighters to purchase equipment for the station. □

CALIFORNIA CONDUCTS NATURE PROGRAM

CO L E G E senior Donnie Wicker gives full credit to The American Legion Department of California for helping him find his niche in life. Six years ago, Wicker was much like many 16-year-olds who don't know what they want to do with their lives. That was before he attended the Environmental Youth Conference sponsored by the Department of California.

Today, Wicker, 22, is majoring in freshwater fisheries at Humboldt State University and has decided to devote his life to learning more about the environment.

The annual four-day conference, first sponsored by the Department in 1971 as a statewide program, is for high school and college students who are selected by their teachers based on their interest in the environment

and personal achievements. About 75 California students attend the conference held each year at Mt. Danaher, Calif.

The students are accompanied by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection rangers who take the students on field trips to places like Lake Tahoe and Eldorado National Forest in central California. The students are assigned as "managers" of a lake or field and are required to relate to their peers what they could do to improve land and water resources.

"The program has widened my horizons," said Craig Williams, a senior at Atwater High School in Atwater, Calif., who attended the program last year. "I've learned what we need to be doing to save the environment and why we are doing it."

"You get to meet a lot of

new people who are interested in the same field you are," said Wicker, who also enjoyed learning about other environmental career fields such as forestry, botany, archeology and wildlife.

The California Department awards a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a student attending the conference. □

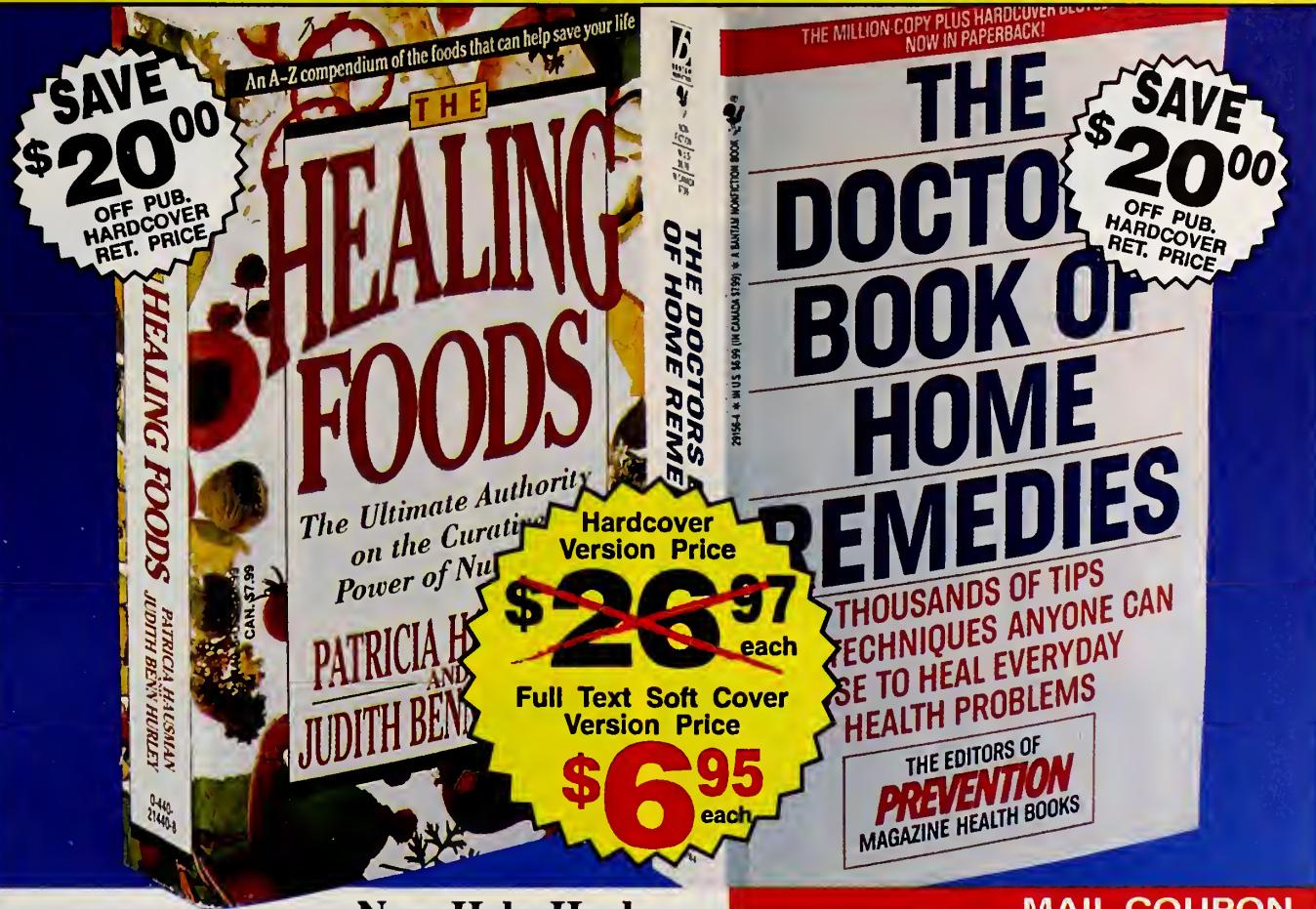


DECKED OUT—Part of the Department of California's Environmental Youth Conference is conducted at the Lake Tahoe Nature Center.

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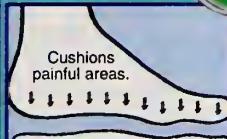
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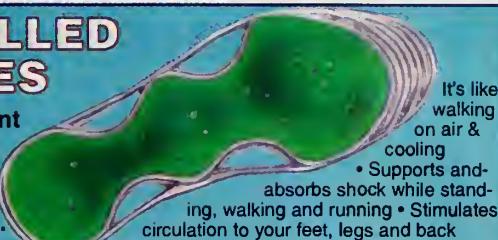
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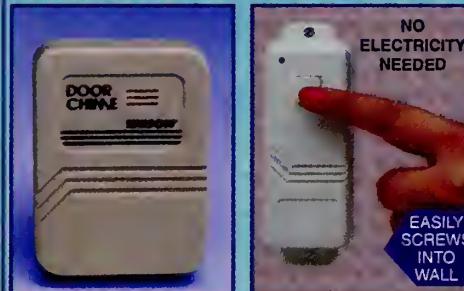


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| 843rd Sig. Serv. Bn., Sig. Corp. #13218 | LST-1059 #18329 | USS Bremerton CA-130/SSN-698 #18427 | USS Guadalupe AO-32 (All Crews) #17729 |
| 865th AAA AW(SP) Bn. (WWII & Korea) #16239 | LST-1097 Assn. (WWII) #14458 | USS Breton CVE-23 #17846 | USS Gudgeon SS-567 #12559 |
| 865th Engr. Avn. Bn. #16603 | LST-1130 #21320 | USS Brule AKL-28 (Vietnam) #14909 | USS Gurke DD-783 #19055 |
| 888th Signal Co. Dep. Avn. (WWII, New Guinea-Manila) #15877 | LST-177 #13546 | USS Bryce Canyon AD-36 #13757 | USS Hailey DD-556 (WWII & Korea) #18685 |
| 979th FA Bn., Service Battery #18941 | LST-346 #28271 | USS Buck DD-761 #30002 | USS Halsey Powell DD-686 #13029 |
| 981st MP Co. "Sentry Dogs" (Vietnam) #12811 | LST-372 #17554 | USS Buck DD-761 (All years)"Buckaneers" #13288 | USS Hamlin AV-15 (WWII) #20585 |
| American Div., 1st/46th Inf., 196th/198th LIB., A Co. (Vietnam) #16343 | LST-398 #18173 | USS Bulmer DD-222 #18883 | USS Harder (SS-568) DFA Sub. #13278 |
| Army Boat Companies (Vietnam) #13118 | LST 41 #19101 | USS Bunch DE-694/APD-79 (& UDT-21) #17713 | USS Harlan R. Dickson DD-708 #18463 |
| ASA 8603 D.U. (Okinawa) 52-56 #19010 | LST-568 #17410 | USS Burns DD-588 #18577 | USS Harris APA-2 #11105 |
| Battle of Kham Duc (May 10-12, 1968) All participants #13210 | LST-625 Assn. #30087 | USS Bush DD-529 #18237 | USS Harwood DDE (61-64) #19109 |
| Camp Crowder Day (40/50's) #19148 | LST 730 (WWII) #19134 | USS Cadmus AR-14 #21438 | USS Hazelwood DD-531 #18028 |
| CID Agents Assn.Inc. #10002 | LST-811 #23086 | USS California BB-44 Assn. (& Atchd. Marines) #17526 | USS Hocking APA-121 #18959 |
| GENED (Gen. Eng. Dist.) HQ, (Manila 1945-46) #12085 | LST-858 AGC-7 (Recomm. ARL-26 Dec. 1947) #28342 | USS Calvert APA-32 #17817 | USS Hopewell DD-681 (WWII, Vietnam, Korea) #22560 |
| Infantry OCS Alumni Assn. #15831 | LST-869 #12661 | USS Cambria APA-36 #13027 | USS Horace A. Bass APD-124 #18679 |
| Natl' Assn. of Atomic "Crossroads" Veterans #14412 | LST Assn. Ohio Chap. #19102 | USS Candid AM-154 (1943/45) #11582 | USS Howard F. Clark (DE-533) Association #22303 |
| PIO Section, 4th Arm'd Div. (1964-66) #13435 | Mobile Riverines, 9th Div. (Vietnam) #22977 | USS Capable AM-155 (1943/45) #11581 | USS Hutchins DD-476 Assn. #18356 |
| Trans CMDS-4th, 5th, 124th, 125th #19066 | Mobile Riverines: MTF 117, 111th River Div. (Vietnam) Associated Units #11937 | USS Capricornus AKA-57 (WWII) #10489 | USS Idaho BB-42 Assn. #17859 |
| V Corps Hdq. Co., MP Plt. (44-45) #19161 | NA Competition Shooters #19103 | USS Captivate AM-156 (1943/45) #18115 | USS Independence CV-62/CVA-62 & Air Wings #17567 |
| White Sands Missile Range, Military Dependents, 50's & 60's #13901 | NAS Columbus, OH - (Including Marines) #18349 | USS Caravan AM-157 (1943/45) #11690 | USS Indianapolis CA-35 (Memorabilia) #11574 |
| XIII Corps Assn. (WWII) #15530 | NAS Glenview, IL #19166 | USS Carbonero SS-337 (All crew members) #18801 | USS Indra ARL-37 #14851 |
| XXIV Corps, HQ Co. (Oahu, HI WWII) #11306 | NAS New York: Floyd Bennett Field (Marines included) #17504 | USS Carmick DD-493/DMS-33 #18600 | USS Jack C. Robinson APD-72 #18072 |
| Zittau Survivors #22851 | NAS North Island, A & R Shops (1943-46) #13469 | USS Caution AM-158 (1943/45) #11580 | USS James E. Kyes DD-787 #22154 |
| Navy | NAS North Island, Sup. Div. (1950/57) #12444 | USS Charles S. Sperry DD-697 Assn. #18038 | USS J. Fred Talbott DD-156/AG-81 #18672 |
| 1st Naval Beach Bn. (WWII) #18454 | NAS Pensacola A&R shops (1943/46) #22728 | USS Chincoteague AVP-24 (All Yrs.) #18745 | USS John D. Henley DD-553 #18629 |
| 3rd NCB (WWII) #10711 | NAS Sangley Point: John Paul Jones School (1948/71) #22602 | USS Chourre ARV-1 (WWII & Korea) #14428 | USS John Paul Jones Assn. DD-230/DD-932/DDG-32 #11231 |
| 119th NCB Seabees (WWII) #28275 | Naval Airship Asso. (Pensacola Chapt.) #19147 | USS Cole DD-155 #12259 | USS John R. Craig DD-885 #18194 |
| 135th NCB (WWII) #18584 | Naval Beach Group One Assn #19041 | USS Colhoun DD-801 (WWII) & Survivors #17626 | USS Johnston DD-821 #10758 |
| 136th NCB #18432 | Naval Detachments-Vietnam #19030 | USS Colletton APB-36/USS Mercer APB-39 & USS Nueces APB-40,(Vietnam) #21815 | USS Kasaan Bay CVE-69 #11519 |
| 301st NCB #19160 | Navy Convair (R4Y, C131) Assciation #19086 | USS Core CVE-13 & VC-6/VC-13/VC-36/VC-38 #18547 | USS Kenmore (AP-162/AK-221) #19179 |
| A5/RA5C "Vigilante Community" #13559 | Navy Musicians #18944 | USS Currier DE-700 #11053 | USS Kenmore AP-162/AK-221 (WWII Pacific Theater) #13160 |
| Air Grp-33 (WWII) #18955 | Navy V/F12 Prog.-Depauw Univ. #19153 | USS Currituck AV-7 (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Op.High Jump) #14598 | USS Kimberly DD-521 #18410 |
| Amphib Base (Maui, Hawaii 1944-45) #18848 | NMCB 15 #19056 | USS Darter (SS-576) DFA Sub. #13277 | USS Lansdale DD-426 #14874 |
| APLS,YRBMS,YFNB (Vietnam) #19029 | NMCB-40 (Vietnam Era, 1959-75) #18736 | USS Denver CL-58 Assn. #18580 | USS Lawrence C. Taylor DE-415 #21434 |
| Armed Guard Vets WWII #19095 | SC-541 #14731 | USS Dewey DLG-14 #15866 | USS LCT-687 (WWII) #16296 |
| ARSD-60: Banika,Solomon Islands #10531 | Shanghai Personnel #18637 | USS Dickens APA-161 (WWII) #11215 | USS Leonis AKA-128 #10768 |
| ARU-145 (Guadalcanal 1943/45) WWII #21941 | SLCU-24 (1943-45) #18921 | USS Diodon (SS-349) #13239 | USS Livermore DD-429 #18839 |
| Aviation Supply Depot, Waiawa Gulch (43/44) #19131 | South China Patrol, Asiatic Fleet (1845-1941) #18034 | USS Dobbins AD-3 & Destroyers Along-side (12-07-41) #18094 | USS Lloyd Thomas DD-764 #18419 |
| Battleship Assn. #17665 | Surface Navy Association #19173 | USS Donnell DE-56/IX-182 #14723 | USS Lubbock APA-197 #13126 |
| Boot Camp Co. 419 (Farragut, Idaho, 1943) #16244 | Swift Boat Sailors of Vietnam #13564 | USS Doyen APA-1 (1943/46) #18686 | USS Macomb DD-458/DMS-23 (WWII) #13119 |
| CAG-153-15 (1945/49) #18636 | Task Force 115/117 Vietnam #28371 | USS Drew APA-162 (WWII) #18574 | USS Magoffin APA-199 #18059 |
| CASU 14 (F) (Salpan 45/46) #19150 | US Naval Group China (SACO) #10521 | USS Drexler DD-741 #18385 | USS Malabar AF-37 #18869 |
| CASU-14 (WWII) #21510 | USS Abercrombie DE-343 (WWII) #11092 | USS Dupont DD-152 #12257 | USS Manley DD-940 #20194 |
| CASU-16 & 17 (Tarawa 1943/44) #11278 | USS Adair APA-91 (WWII) #11897 | USS Eaton DD/DDE-510 #12282 | USS Marias AO-57 #21430 |
| CASU-38 (WWII) #12664 | USS Ajax AR-6 #14500 | USS Elden DE-264 #12295 | USS Matagorda APA-22 #17923 |
| CASU-F-44 (Tinian 1944-45) #11767 | USS Albany Assn. CL-23/CA-123/CG-10/SSN-753 & Marines #10176 | USS Ellis DD-154 #12258 | USS Menard APA-201 #18184 |
| DESDIV 59-60: USS Dupont/ Bernadou/Ellis/Cole/Dallas #18358 | USS Albert T. Harris DE-447 #20995 | USS Ellsworth DD-454/DMS-19 #18323 | USS Midway CV-41 Assn. #22734 |
| Diesel School - University of Missouri, Columbia (July42-Sept. 43) #14822 | USS Alcor AK-259 (Korea to Present) #12892 | USS Endymion ARL-9 #10956 | USS Mission Bay CVE-59 #18408 |
| Flying Midshipmen Assn. (1946-50) #17513 | USS Alex Diachenko APD-123 (44-46) #13124 | USS Enoree (AO-69) (Apr. 46/47) #19125 | USS Montour APA-101 #14722 |
| GRO-PAC 11: USNB 3150 (Iwo Jima) | USS Allagash AO-97 & Atlantic Fleet Oil Tanker Assn #10646 | USS Everett F. Larson DD/DDR-830 #10470 | USS Montrose APA/LPA-212 #11192 |
| | USS Amycus ARL-2 #17717 | USS Fargo CL-106 #22320 | USS Murray DD/DDE-576 #17848 |
| | USS Ashtabula AO-51 (All Yrs.) #21696 | USS Finch DE/DER-328 & WDE-428 (Incl. CG) #17969 | USS Mustin DD413/Hornet CV-8 Sur-vivors #18376 |
| | USS Askarl ARL-30 #22979 | USS Fiske DD/DDR-842 #17616 | USS Nantahala AO-60 #11345 |
| | USS Badger DD-126 #22065 | USS Floyds Bay AVP-40 #18442 | USS Neches AO-47 #22645 |
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 USS Odax SS-484 #11271
 USS Ordnance DD-617 #17448
 USS Orleck DD-886 Assn. #22539
 USS Pasig AW-3 #18384
 USS Patoka AO-9 #18519
 USS Pawcatuck AO-108 #11625
 USS Payette County (LST-1079) #19185
 USS Pennsylvania BB-38 Assn (Officers, Crew, Mar) and SSBN-735 #17778
 USS Perch SS(I & II) #11628
 USS President Monroe AP-104 #19087
 USS President Warfield IX-169 (Normandy, 1944) #16107
 USS Prime MSO-466 (Far East Cruise 1965) #18835
 USS Princeton CV-37/LPH-5 #14689
 USS Purdy DD-734 #17965
 USS Rainier AE-5 #18272
 USS Raleigh CL-7 Assn. #17744
 USS Randall APA-224 #11144
 USS Ranger CV/CVA-61 Assn (1957-93) #17742
 USS Regulus AF-57 #17856
 USS Rendova CVE-114 #30095
 USS Renville APA-227 #22306
 USS Requin SS/SSR-481 #22649
 USS Reynolds DE-42 #17855
 USS Rich DD/DDE-820/DE-695 #11396
 USS Rixey APH-3 #12288
 USS Roanoke CL-145 #11418
 USS Robert E. Peary DE-132 (WWII) #13476
 USS Robert H. McCord DD-822 #10720
 USS Rockwall APA-230 #23070
 USS Rowe DD-564 #14396
 USS Salvager ARS(D)-3 (1946-65), USS Windlass ARS-D4 #12736
 USS Sampson DDG-10 #16279
 USS San Pablo AVP-30 #22038
 USS Satyr ARL-23 (1943/56) #11672
 USS Satyr ARL-23 (Riverines) Vietnam #22978
 USS Schmitt DE-676/APD-76 #18188
 USS Schuykill AO-76 #17529
 USS Seminole AKA-104 #21306
 USS Serrano AGS-24 #19063
 USS Shea DM-30 (WWII) #10309
 USS Sims DE-154/APD-50 #17854
 USS Skylark ASR-20 #19169
 USS Sterett DD-407 #17664
 USS Stormes/Warrington/Vogelgesang/Steinaker/Grand Canyon #17714
 USS Sumter APA-52 (WWII) #11084
 USS Sussex AK-213 #17442
 USS Swearer DE-186 #17458
 USS Tang (SS-563) DFA Sub. #13281
 USS Tanner AGS-15/USS Pamina AKA-34 #14427
 USS Thomas E. Fraser (DM-24) #13284
 USS Thomas Jefferson SSBN-618 #12293
 USS Thompson DD-627/DMS-38 (WWII Korea) #17569
 USS Toledo CA-133 (Incl. Marines) #18031
 USS Tolovana AO-64 #19043
 USS Trout (SS-566) DFA Sub. #13279
 USS Uhlmann DD-687 #20251
 USS Vicksburg CL-86 #17518
 USS Vulcan AR-5 (1943/46) #10779
 USS Vulcan AR-5 (1948-52) #12681
 USS Wadsworth DD-516 #18201
 USS Wahoo (SS-565) DFA Sub. #13282
 USS Walko DD-723 #18324
 USS Waller DD/DDE-466 #17511
 USS Warren APA-53 #21470
 USS William Pratt (DLG-13) #19123
 USS Windlass ARS(D)-4 (1946-65) #14954
 USS Xanthus AR-19 #18262
 USS Yukatav AVP-32 #20464

USS Yancey (KA-93)(All Years) #12890
 USS Young DD-580 (WWII) #12145
 USS YP 31 #19154
 USS Zeal AM-131 Assn. #10683
 V-5 Program, St. Olaf College #19049
 VC-84 Squadron #28290
 VF-33/VT-33 (WWII) #14628
 VF-51 (Far East Tour w/CVA-47) 1954 #14988
 Virginia Bull Session #19174
 VP-11(F)/54/51, VB/VPB-101/PATSU 1-2/CASU(F)-56 (1936-45) #17751
 VP-214 (WWII) #22533
 VP-8/VPML-8/VP-201 "Patrol Sq. 8 Alumni Assn." #12648
 VP/VPB-214 Patrol Sq. WWII #19098
 VP/VPB-23 (1944-45) #13477
 VT-86 "Torpedo Squadron 86" (WWII) #10681
 WAVES: NAS Barber's Pt. #14376
 YMS 267 #19045
 YMS-Sailors WWII #19113

Air Force

1 Nouasseur Air Base (1951-63) Moroccan Reunion Assn. #13535
 2nd Air Div., 8th AF-all units #19175
 2nd Bomb Grp. Assn (1921/47) & 2nd Bomb Wing (1947/91) #15135
 3rd Avn. Fld. Dpt. Sq. (1951/53) #11664
 6th Photo Tech / 548th Recon. Tech. Sqdn. (Yakota, Japan 1947/50) #11341
 8th Base SV Sqdn (51/55) #19162
 11th/12th Tac. Recon. Sqdns., 6166 Weather FLT (1950-54) Korea #18951
 19th Air Base Grp., 19th Installation Sq. (Kadena 1953/55) #22663
 26th Air Div. HQ: L.Isl., NY (1949/58) #21753
 28th ABGP-Hdq Sec Sqdr #19052
 33rd Air Div., Atch ACtW & Ftr Sq. #15041
 80th Air Depot Wing, Nouasseur Air Base (Morocco, 1951/55) #13143
 82nd Bomb Grp., 327th Bomb Sq. (1951/54) #11747
 82nd FLTG "Mobileer/Fld.Trainers" #13979
 84th Bomb Sq. (L) Jet #18796
 86th Base Sv. Sq. (Germany, 51/55) #19186
 89th Serv. Sq. #19182
 102nd AC & W Sq. (1948-65) #15060
 102nd Observation Squadron #22845
 311th Ftr. Sq. (WWII) & 311th Ftr. Bomber Sq. (Korea) #22899
 317th Ftr. Interceptor Sq. Assn. #15108
 319th Ftr. Int. Sq. (Bunker Hill, Korea, Homestead) #15094
 444th Ftr. Inter. Sq. #10045
 511th AC&W Grp: 613th, 847th, 848th Sqdns Japan (47-54) #19053
 517th Air Police Sq. (Wiesbaden, Germany) #13715
 602nd AC&W Sqdn. Giebelstadt, Germany (1963-67) #19037
 753rd AC&W Sq. (Sault Ste Marie MI 1951/59) #11508
 801st MAES (Japan and Korea, 1951-53) #13167
 1503rd MATS & ATW (48/56) #20394
 4114th (92nd) A&E Mnt. Sqdn. (50/53) #19178
 4750th A B G, Yuma AFB #19187
 7100th AP Sq. (USAFA-Wiesbaden, Ger. 58/62) #21308
 7499th Spirt. Grp. #21608
 Cadet Class 56-C #19158
 Civil Air Patrol, Buffalo Sq. #1 #17171
 Flight Instr. Pensacola NAS (1943-45) #17169
 Physiological Training-Offutt AFB #19181
 Pilot Class 55-V (Incl. Hondo/Reese) #14005
 Sewart AFB: All Personnel (Smyrna, TN 1948/70) #11922

Army Air Forces

1st BAD (Mary Ann Site 1942/45) #22797
 2nd Air Div. Assn. #19111
 4th Ferrying Grp., ATC: Nashville & Memphis (WWII) #13061
 5th Bomb Grp.(H), 13th Air Force (PTO, WWII) #16912
 5th Bomb Grp.(H), 23rd Bomb. Sq., 13th AF (WWII) #16922
 5th Bomb Grp.(H), 31st Bomb Sq., 13th AF (WWII) #22707
 5th Bomb Grp.(H), 394th Bomb Sq./4th Reconnaissance Sq., 13th AF (WWII) #14291
 5th Bomb Grp.(H), 72nd Bomb Sq., 13th AF (WWII) #14279
 5th Bomb Grp.(H), 868th Bomb. Sq., "The Snoopers", 13th AF (WWII) #16935
 6th AARU(F),A (WWII) #16753
 6th Bomb Grp. (VH)(Tinian) #15138
 9th SERV SQ (PTO WWII) #19012
 11th Bomb Grp. (PTO WWII) #15172
 26th M.R. & R. Sq., Glider Mechanics (1941-46) WWII #13695
 29th Air Serv. Grp. (Attached Units) - 13th AF (WWII) #16754
 47th/479th Service Sqns. #21975
 49th Ftr Grp Assn (1941-Present) #16929
 87th Dpt. Rpr. Sq. (WWII) #16897
 95th Bomb (H) Grp. (WWII) Assn. B-52's #16819
 112th Liaison Sq., 9th AF #12163
 321st Serv. Gp., 9th Serv. Sq. #16751
 328th Ftr. Cntrl. Sq. #20012
 336th Air Service Sq. (WWII) #20278
 351st Bomb Grp. (WWII/England) #15084
 365th Ftr. Sqn, 9th AF #19092
 385th Bomb. Grp. Memorial Assn. (Sta. 155, Eng. WWII) #16893
 401st Bomb. Grp. (H) Assn. #15137
 404th Ftr. Grp.: All Ftr. Sq. (WWII) #17000
 457th Bomb Grp. (H) Assn. (WWII) #20024
 474th Ftr. Grp. Assn (WWII) #11931
 494th Bomb (H) Grp. #20847
 506th Ftr. Grp., 457th/458th/462nd Sqns. - (Iwo Jima/WII) #12020
 850th Avn. Engr. Br. #15157
 871st Signal Corps Association (WWII-Guam) #12215
 896th Sig. Avn. Dpt. Co. (9th AF WWII) #10688
 919th Engr. Avn. Maint, 6010th Engr Avn Co. (SCARWAF) (49/56) #10510
 1905th & 1906th Ord. Amm. Co. (Avn.) #13232
 Avn. Cadet Class 42-B #13339
 Avn. Cadet Class 42-K #19061
 Cadet Class 42-D (Luke, Mather, Stockton & Williams Fields) #18991
 "Haps Babys" - Shots From The Sky (WAC WWII) #13983
 Pilot Class 43-C (W.Coast Trng. Cmd.) #22861
 Pilot Class 43-F #19171
 Pilot Class 45-C (Marfa TX) #11513
 Stalag Luft III (Ex POWS) #21501

Marines

1st Mar. Div., 1st Rgt., 2nd Bn. (Korea) #20324
 1st Mar. Div., 5th Regt, 2nd Bn. Hdq. Co. (69/70) #19156
 1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 2nd Bn., "H" Co. (Vietnam) #18970
 1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 3rd Bn., I Co. (Vietnam) #17179
 1st Motor Trans. Co.-Charlie Co. (52/53) #19163
 3rd Mar. Div., 9th Rgt., 3rd Bn., Lima Co. (L/3/9, 1964-65) #13219
 3rd Recon. Bn., D Co. (Vietnam-65) #19117
 4th Rgt., 3rd Bn. (1925/88) #22307
 5th Field/Svc. Dpts. (Guam, WWII) #12419
 5th Mar. Div., 27th Rgt., 3rd Bn., L Co., 3rd Pltn. (Vietnam) #22868
 7th Serv. Rgt., Motor Trans. Co. #10163
 8th & 1 Marines (1951/54) #13087
 Chi Chi Jima Marines #21003
 Iwo Jima Reunion #15707
 Marine Barracks Great Lakes #19177
 Marines-Vietnam Serv. #19124
 Mojave Desert Marines Assn-all sq.(42/58) #21035
 Mojave Desert Marines (Base Personnel-Male & Female WWII) #11738
 Reserve Officers Ass'n #19060
 SATS Launch & Recovery #12712
 USS Philippine Sea CV-47 (Marine Det.) #15807
 VMF(N)-Mar. AW Sq. (WWII, Korea) #19094
 VMJ/VMR-352 #14346
 VMSB-231 (WWII) Ace of Spades Sq #10940
 VMSB/MTB-232 #13115

Merchant Marine

Merchant Marine - Keystone Chapt. (9-8-39/8-15-45) #18791

Coast Guard

USCGC 83508 (Eniwetok) #19093
 USS Admiral C.F. Hughes AP-124 (WWII) #13491
 USS Admiral E.W. Eberle AP-123 (WWII) #13493
 USS Admiral H.T. Mayo AP-125 (WWII) #13489
 USS Admiral W.L. Capps AP-121 (WWII) #13175
 USS Bath PF-55 #19168
 USS General George M. Randall AP-115 (WWII) #11890
 USS General W.H. Gordon AP-117 (WWII) #11882
 USS General William Mitchell AP-114 (WWII) #11884
 USS General William P. Richardson AP-118 (Post WWII) #11889
 USS General William P. Richardson AP-118 (WWII) #11888
 USS General William Weigel AP-119 (WWII) #11886
 USS Ramsden DE/DER-382/WDE-482 #10808
 USS Sheboyan PF-57 #20372
 USS Y-21 (44/45) #19180

Miscellaneous

American Airpower Heritage Museum Symp. (WWII) #12800
 Anzio Beachhead Vets (WWII) #17275
 A.P. Transport Assn. #18620
 Atomic Vets Nat. Assn. (All Test Areas 1945/65) #11335
 Black Pearl Vets, IWO JIMA 1945-68 #14911
 Bridge at Remagen-50th Anniversary-all troops #19176
 CASU's and ACORNS Salpan WWII #19100
 DCA-Europe (DISA) #18697
 Int'l CPO Assn. #20816
 Iwo Jima Survivors Assn of Connecticut Inc. #14355
 Iwo Jima Survivors Assn of Texas #22242
 Iwo Jima Veterans Ntl. Assn. #17308
 Korea Revisit Tour #20447
 Moroccan Reunion Assn. #17273
 Persian Gulf Command Vets (WWII, All Branches) #21738
 Wisconsin Place-Named Ships of WWII (50th Anniv.) #18829
 THE AMERICAN LEGION

Bob
Lee



Bob Lee says: "It's hard for me to be modest with THESE LOW VITAMIN PRICES!"

Now-Hear
A Whisper
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FALL MEETING

Continued from page 20

controversy. He said the decision to drop the bomb was the right one because it ended the war and preserved civilization and the bulk of the Japanese empire.

In a later interview with ABC's *Nightline* and a news crew from a Japanese public television station, Detweiler defended the Legion's role in revising the Enola Gay script. "We have tried to offer creative criticism, not just throw rocks," he said.

FLYING THE FLAG

As the Fall Meeting convened, 71 organizations representing more than 27 million Americans had joined the Citizens Flag Alliance Inc. (CFA) in support of a constitutional amendment to protect the Flag from physical desecration.

Daniel S. Wheeler, the CFA's president, reported that the message of protecting the Flag has been spread through the media nationwide. He said the CFA is in the process of getting

legislators to commit to passing a constitutional amendment to protect the Flag.

Already, 158 members of Congress have pledged to co-sponsor any bill introduced to protect the Flag. Wheeler said more congressional co-sponsors are expected as the campaign continues.

During the meeting, NECmen dropped off petitions containing the signatures of hundreds of citizens who support a constitutional amendment to protect the Flag.

"We want the issue to be decided at home not in Washington," Wheeler said. "It's time to let the legislators know it's time to listen to the people or come home and be one of them."

Wheeler also reported that a draft of the amendment would be finished within weeks. "The Constitution and the Flag have existed 200 years without conflict. By passing an amendment to protect the Flag, we honor both," he said.

SEEKING MORE MEMBERS

Repeatedly stressed during the October meeting was the critical, ongoing need for increased membership.

"Without new members, we cannot

conduct our programs for America's youth, and we cannot maintain a strong voice on Capitol Hill," said Bettylou Evans, Chairperson of the Membership and Post Activities Committee.

Evans reminded the gathering that the Legion is losing three Posts to every one new Post created. To reverse the trend, Evans and Detweiler urged Legionnaires to seek prospective members from other organizations.

"Each year, we see fewer and fewer faces, but it's reality," Detweiler said. "We must work with other organizations to get the word about The American Legion out. We've got to stop preaching to the choir. We must go to meetings in other organizations — that's where our potential membership is."

During her report, Evans recognized the Departments of Delaware, Florida, Indiana, New Mexico, Utah and Vermont for achieving all-time membership highs for 1994.

AUXILIARY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Noting that the American Legion Auxiliary this year is celebrating its 75th anniversary, National Auxiliary President Linda Newsome thanked the Legion for its support and said she hopes Legionnaires will share the vision that the Auxiliary will someday reach that 3 million-member goal.

"What a powerful force that would be on Capitol Hill, when our organizations' representatives say they speak for 3 million Legionnaires and 3 million Auxiliary members," Newsome said. She also reaffirmed the Auxiliary's support for the Citizens Flag Alliance and the National Emergency Fund.

HONORS & EULOGIES

Magazine Commission Chairman Milford Forrester presented Past National Commander (PNC) E. Roy Stone Jr. with a laminated plaque bearing the article, "This We Believe," which Stone wrote for the 75th anniversary issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE in September. "I am overwhelmed," said Stone. "I am very proud of it and I am certainly proud of this American Legion." Stone's article was entered into the Congressional Record on Sept. 16, 1994.

The National Executive Committeemen also took time out from their business to honor the memory of two

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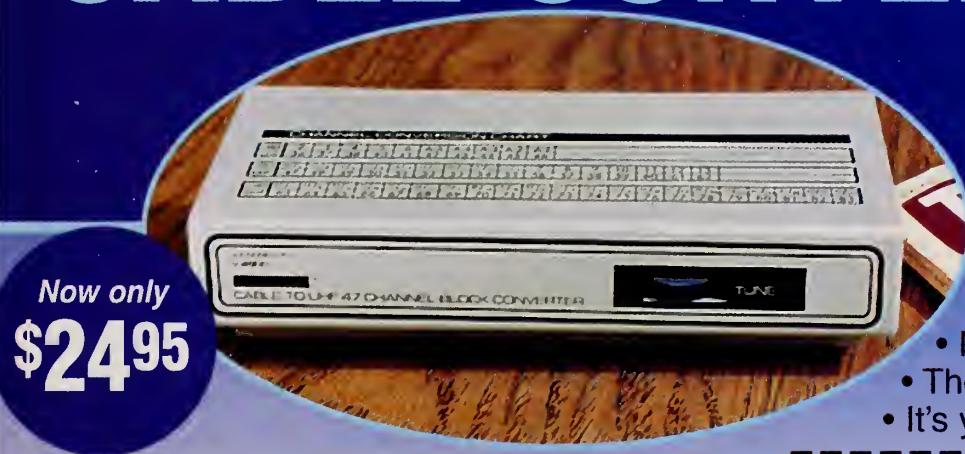
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FALL MEETING

Continued from page 68

distinguished Legionnaires who recently passed away.

In a moving eulogy, PNC Daniel F. Foley honored retired Army Col. Frank R. Kossa, who served on several national commissions and committees in addition to many Department positions. Kossa, the only veteran known to have served in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam, was honorary past president and secretary/treasurer emeritus of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada's United States Unit (ANAVICUS). He was also a lifetime member of Post 35 of Jeffersonville, Ind., when he died Sept. 15 at the age of 96.

The NEC also sadly marked the death of this year's National Historian, LaReine Maxey, 74, who died in an auto accident last October on her way to the Department of Nevada's executive committee meeting. National Commander William M. Detweiler appointed Maxey the Legion's National Historian at the 76th National Con-

vention in Minneapolis last September.

To fill her office, Detweiler selected Carl S. Wipperman of Everett, Wash. Wipperman, a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars, has been a member of Post 127, Bothell, Wash., for 25 years. For more information on Wipperman, see Page 52.

RESOLUTIONS

The following program and policy resolutions were passed at the Fall Meeting:

Res. 1 Makes copies of "The Minneapolis Affirmation" available to Legionnaires and other members of the Legion family upon request.

Res. 4 Provides Legion funding to review VA's epidemiological study of Persian Gulf veterans.

Res. 7 Urges, if needed, legislation that would preserve the Legion's tax-exempt status.

Res. 13 Commends and encourages the Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles in Lexington, Neb.

Res. 14 Recognizes the devotion, sacrifice and continued support of all women who have served during war and supports the building of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Res. 15 Urges maintaining a minimum of 500 Minuteman III missiles; 18 Trident submarines each carrying 24 D-5 missiles; 64 or more B-52H bombers armed with air-launch cruise missiles; 84 B-1 bombers and 20 B-2 bombers.

Res. 16 Urges Congress to retain the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as a continued source of career military physicians for the armed forces.

Res. 17 Urges Post Commanders to support the Help Hospitalized Veterans Program.

Res. 18 Endorses a new GI Bill that would: provide benefits comparable to previous GI Bills; include offering health care, child care and all other benefits granted to those eligible for the National Service Plan; provide tax exemptions for GI Bill payments to veterans; and offer other benefits that would enhance a service person's chances for receiving a higher education.

Res. 19 Urges reopening the National Service Life Insurance program for a minimum of one year for all disabled veterans.

Res. 20 Calls on Congress to enact legislation to provide equal benefits to naturalized Filipino veterans.

Res. 21 Urges Congress to amend title 38, of the U.S. Code, Sec. 107, to recognize the status of Filipinos as veterans.

Res. 22 Supports free, fair and open competition in the high technology, financial services, and information services marketplaces.

Res. 23 Awards the 1995 Region II American Legion Baseball tournament to Danville, Va.

Res. 24 Authorizes agreement with National College Services Ltd. to produce the *Need A Lift?* book.

Res. 25 Reaffirms the Legion's long-standing support of all law enforcement agencies in their mission to protect the civil rights and property of Americans.

Res. 26 Authorizes the National Commander, with assistance from his Advisory Committee, to determine the Legion's final position on the Smithsonian Institution's exhibit of the Enola Gay.

Res. 27 Provides continued Legion support of families in need of services formerly provided by the Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program.

Res. 32 Authorizes The American Legion to conduct a "Seeds for Sight" program with the Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation.

Res. 33 Requires American Legion Baseball teams to buy insurance from a Legion-specified agent.

Res. 34 Commends the Special Committee to Formulate Plans for Observation of the 75th Anniversary of The American Legion.

The complete text of these and other resolutions passed by the NEC may be obtained by writing: Archives, The American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □

By T. Douglas Donaldson

TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high national or department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Francis "Frank" P. Deka, MA Vice Commander (1975-76).

M. LaReine Maxey, NV Department Historian (1975-76, 1994), National Historian (1994).



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WHAT'S WRONG?

Continued from page 37

Nevertheless, Fisher has the burns, and Riegle and The American Legion have copies of the report by Army Col. Michael Dunn, who was Fisher's treating physician. Dunn's report also contains similar diagnoses by three other medical officers who helped treat Fisher, all of whom are graduates

of the Army's Medical Management of Chemical Casualties Course.

Attempting to explain the burns, Pentagon spokesman Hart said Fisher might have entered a bunker that was used to store mustard gas during the Iran-Iraq war. "Mustard gas is an extremely persistent agent," Hart said. "This is, of course, merely a theory."

Gulf troops were not limited to chemical exposure by weapons of war. As TV so vividly showed, the air was thick with petrochemical smoke from burning oil wells. Also, the troops' tent heaters and vehicles emitted toxic

exhausts; uniforms were treated with an insect repellent called DEET; and malathion and other insecticides were used to control pests around campsites. All Gulf GIs were exposed to one or more elements of the war's chemical "soup."

For example, members of the Florida and Michigan National Guard and Reserves were unnecessarily exposed to dangerous chemicals during a painting detail. The Army uses a special paint, CARC (Chemical Agent Resistant Coating), on its vehicles and equipment so they can be decontaminated by solvents without any damage to the equipment. The Guardsmen and Reservists used CARC to paint hundreds of tanks, armored personnel carriers and other vehicles in enclosed tents without any special protection.

ACCORDING to a report given to Congress by Dr. William Johnson of the Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga., many of these soldiers worked without respirators for up to 12 hours a day in poorly ventilated enclosures. The paint should have been applied while wearing full protective gear, including respirators, according to the manufacturer's instructions, which were not given to the soldiers.

When the unit's commanding officer became aware of the risk, he tried unsuccessfully to get proper equipment. He was finally forced to go to his congressman and the National Guard headquarters back in his state before he could get the necessary respirators and other safety devices.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE has obtained a classified National Guard Inspector General's report. It states that of the personnel who worked unprotected with CARC, 40-percent suffered permanent lung damage, some losing as much as 60-percent of their pulmonary functions.

A highly controversial drug, pyrodostimine bromide, also may be a contributing cause of the Persian Gulf Syndrome. The drug was administered as an anti-nerve agent to units in the area, although it was designed to treat neurological problems. Some GIs were required to take it, others not. Some who did, like California Army National Guard Maj. Jane Monville, had what she described as allergic reactions to the medication.

DoD claims the drug has been used successfully to treat neurological problems since the mid-50s. However, according to Riegle's report, the drug

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WHAT'S WRONG?

Continued from page 74

have even put a memo out that there is no reason these people should not be able to talk."

And talk they have. There are many reports of GIs entering or approaching some bunkers and noting a strong aroma of ammonia or geraniums — telltale signs of the nerve agent, Tabun, or the blood agent, Lewisite. Again, DoD maintains there is no evi-

dence that chemical or biological warfare weapons were used.

What was responsible for the clusters of dead animals scattered across the desert? The official Army explanation was that a five-year cyclic disease decimated the herds, but none of the civilian veterinary experts interviewed by THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE ever heard of such a disease.

Moreover, military specialists in nuclear/biological/chemical (NBC) warfare are instructed to watch for signs of possible NBC exposure in animals, such as the absence of insects around dead animals. "The desert is literally crawling with bugs," says

Army Special Forces Lt. Col. Herb Smith, "but they weren't on the corpses of the animals."

In civilian life, Smith was a veterinarian until the Gulf illness forced him to retire. Nor was he the only one to note the many dead animals.

Military veterinarians conducted autopsies on a small herd of camels found dead in the desert. They discovered all the camels had enlarged hearts. Riegle's investigative staff and American Legion Service Officers say that, except for cancer, the leading cause of deaths among Gulf veterans is congestive heart problems, with symptoms including enlarged hearts.

There also are persistent reports that Iraq was not the only nation in the Gulf with NBC elements.

GIs who were there claim that there were U.S. artillery units that had both chemical and tactical nuclear weapons. To date, allied forces have denied they brought chemical weapons into the Gulf. But the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) may have let the cat out of the bag when it commented on the Czech detection of the chemical warfare agent, Sarin, in the Gulf.

In a General Accounting Office report titled "Operation Desert Storm: Questions Remain to Possible Exposure to Reproductive Toxins," DIA last August concluded: "The most logical explanation was that the detection was a result of live agent testing of the Czechoslovakian equipment or a possible accident involving chemical agents among coalition forces [emphasis added]."

At best, the statement implies that allied forces had chemical agents. At worse, it suggests that at least some chemical contamination could have been the result of friendly fire.

"We did not have chemical agents in the Gulf," says DoD spokesman Hart. "As far as the Czech report, we have no reason to doubt the Czech report. They have very good equipment, but DoD has no way of verifying their report. There is no way for us to confirm or deny it."

Radiological exposures. During the war, allied bombing destroyed three Iraqi nuclear power plants. Weather reports in the Gulf region show that any radiation released by the bombings would have passed over allied troops and naval emplacements.

The munitions used in the Gulf also were potentially hazardous. Allied forces used depleted uranium (DU)

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WHAT'S WRONG?

Continued from page 76

rounds to take out Iraqi targets, especially tanks and other armored vehicles. The rounds, made from nuclear waste material, become so hot when fired they literally melt their way through armor plating, incinerating anything inside the target.

Launched as rockets from aircraft or by tank cannons, the DU rounds generate dust, shrapnel and ash that is radioactive. Nuclear experts say that when the dust is inhaled, it settles in the victim's lungs and winds up in areas such as the lymph glands, likely resulting in cancers.

Some of the symptoms of radiation poisoning are hair loss, nausea, bleeding gums and sunburn-like rashes on the skin. These were the symptoms reported by many participants in the above-ground nuclear tests at the Nevada test sites during the '50s and '60s. They also were the first symptoms reported by Gulf War veterans to The American Legion.

GIs in the Gulf also had to contend

with other types of radiation, including numerous microwave transmitters and radar installations. Medical science has long recognized that large or prolonged doses to these radiations pose a health threat.

Col. Hart insists that DoD is not involved in a cover-up. After all, what reason would DoD have to stonewall or deny what took place? One possible answer is that serious errors in judgment were made.

Sen. Riegle's May 1994 Senate hearing revealed that tens of thousands of chemical alarm soundings were ignored by U.S. troops, because their commanding officers told them the warning equipment was faulty. The number of known chemical alarms systems in the Gulf was more than 14,000, according to DoD. These alarms sounded two to three times a day, but DoD claimed they all were false alarms.

AS DoD spokesman Hart explained to THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: "First, some of those alarms were set off a number of times a day for testing. I can't say that everybody was told the equipment was being tested every time one went off. That type of equipment was tested on a very regular basis, however."

DoD's explanation doesn't jibe with eyewitness accounts. In one case, military commanders told their troops that a missile explosion that set off chemical alarms was really just a "sonic boom."

The Riegle report said DoD even went as far as to tell commanding officers it was vital for morale to soothe and allay the ground forces' fears, rather than admit they were the subjects of a chemical attack.

Eyewitnesses to some of the chemical alerts tell of allied forces fully suited up in protective gear who entered American encampments. They were dumbfounded to find that U.S. troops were unprotected. The GIs had been told the alerts were false alarms.

In the three years since the war, not much has been done to help Gulf War veterans and their families. Yet, there are some signs of government action.

Sens. John "Jay" Rockefeller of West Virginia and Paul Wellstone of Minnesota have initiated an investigation into the many reports of miscarriages, sterility and birth defects affecting the Gulf veterans in and out of military service. In addition, Congress has approved a \$20 million package to investigate the possible

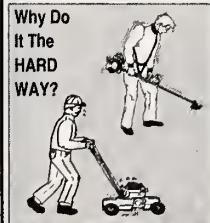
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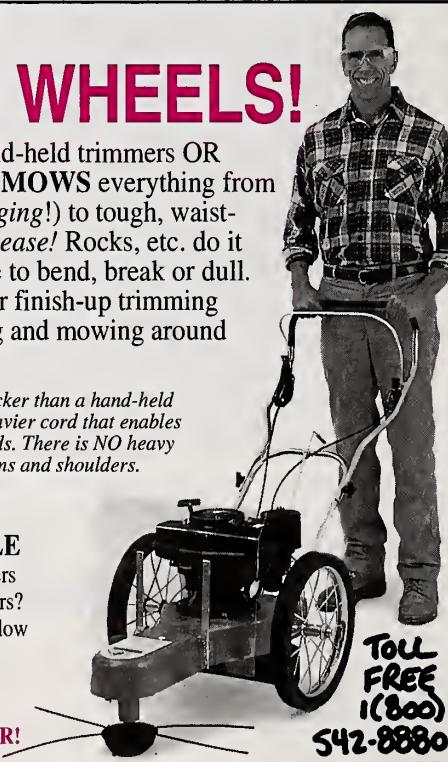
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WHAT'S WRONG?

Continued from page 78

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causes of the mystery illness.

In early October, Congress passed a "catch-all" omnibus bill that gave VA Secretary Brown the go-ahead to define aspects of the Gulf War Syndrome and grant compensation after guidelines are established — the same power extended in 1991 to then-Secretary Edward Derwinski for Agent Orange victims.

"Secretary Brown has often said he doesn't want the Gulf illnesses to turn into another Agent Orange," says National Commander William M. Detweiler. "Unfortunately, it appears that this is exactly what Congress has handed him."

Detweiler noted that the Agent Orange issue is more than 20 years old; no proper study has ever been conducted; and the first Agent Orange treatment and compensation guidelines were put in place just three years

ago. Brown now may face the beginning of an identical situation with Gulf illnesses, if VA does not take action immediately.

VA has established three research centers to study issues such as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome and other potential contributors to the veterans' illnesses.

Even DoD is not completely callous to the plight of those GIs suffering from the Gulf illness. "We are doing everything we can to find out what's wrong with these people. We are as frustrated as any of those people who are sick and want to know what's going on," Hart said.

But for those afflicted like Col. Smith, it's not easy to maintain what the military calls PMA — a positive mental attitude. At age 52, Smith is now forced to spend much of his time in a wheelchair.

"I am the kind of guy who took pride in climbing two flights of stairs without breathing hard while the guy next to me was panting for breath," he says. "Now I even need help opening a soda can." □

Where To Find Help

ALL GULF War veterans should place their names on special registries, The American Legion advises. These registries will help establish your complaints for future claims. Active duty GIs and Reservists should place their name on the Department of Defense's Registry. If you are no longer on active duty, you should place your name on the VA Registry. National Guard members also should register with VA. Phone numbers for these Registries are listed below.

By calling The American Legion Family Support Network, Gulf War personnel will be put in touch with their nearest American Legion Department Service Officer or Legion Post. "We strongly urge any Gulf veteran who is sick to use an American Legion Department Service Officer to file a claim with VA," says National Commander William M. Detweiler. "The help is free and it's good to have a professional in your corner."

VA also has a toll-free phone line that connects callers to its nearest VA Regional Office, where information on benefits ranging from home loans and education to

medical care can be obtained.

Gulf personnel encountering problems with the government bureaucracies should contact their congressman or woman. Congress is very interested in the Persian Gulf Syndrome issue.

For Gulf War parents, Betty Mekdici at the Association of Birth Defect Children (ABDC) also has a registry and can provide the names of support groups and other parents with children similarly affected. Mekdici says that a birth defect can be anything from a visible physical deformity to a chronically ill child with a damaged immune system. The ABDC has received more than \$42,000 in grants from The American Legion.

DoD/Reserve Gulf War Registry: 1-800-796-9699

VA Gulf War Registry: 1-202-535-7188

The American Legion Family Support Network: 1-800-433-3318
Nearest VA Regional Office: 1-800-827-1000

The Association of Birth Defect Children: 1-800-313-2232

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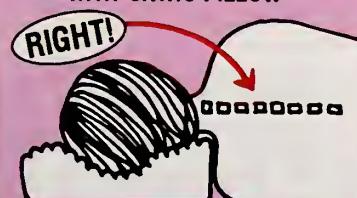
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"It's cost him dearly," Ronald Early, a friend from American Legion Post 430 says. "He got himself in debt helping others."

Even though Hirschinger was in the hot dog business when he first thought of feeding Marines in Beirut, "It's not like he was some big deal distributor," Early says. "I mean he was a street vendor, for God's sake."

Harry's passion took a financial toll. "I got \$37,000 in debt," he says, adding that it is a personal debt he's been paying off a little at a time. Still, a year ago, he was trying to figure out how to get hot dogs to Somalia.

"Harry hasn't made a lot of money," Harry's brother, Walter Hirschinger says from New Jersey.

"Getting all this food, shipping it all over, flying there with helpers, it's very costly. He's a successful man, but not at making money for himself."

T'S TRUE. Harry long ago sold his carts and now works as a furniture salesman at a retail store. Another friend, Father John Cody of Saint Francis Parish in Columbus, says, "The amazing thing is, he does it for patriotism and because he feels deeply for these kids in the service."

Hirschinger founded Operation America Loves You, a nonprofit organization, to help him fund his endeavors, but too often the organization had more going out than coming in. Still Harry remains so focused on this mission.

"My mother always said food is love," he says. "I grew up with that. You break bread with people in an orthodox Jewish family, and it means something. And this is the all-American food."

He pauses amid the clutter in his home, the mementos, plaques, banners, framed color photos of Harry with presidents Reagan and Bush, Harry with generals, Harry with senators.

There are caps, gifts from service men and women around the world, letters from grateful soldiers.

He shrugs.

"If I could just talk to President Clinton and tell him about the look on a kid's face when I hand him a steaming hot dog! I mean, eating a hot dog on the DMZ just makes you feel so good!"

* * *

Editor's note: If anyone wants to help Harry with his efforts, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Harry Hirschinger, 1709 Dundee Place, Columbus, Ohio 43227. □

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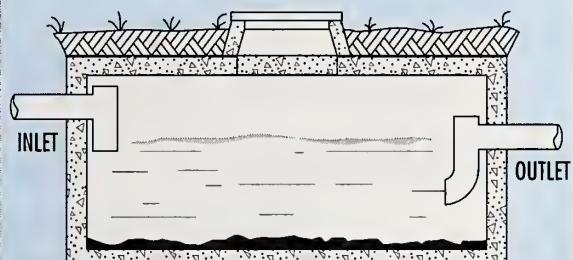
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Continued from page 42

ment, public infrastructure — we're investing far less than our foreign competitors. Part of the problem is that we save less privately. But most of the problem is that a growing share of our savings — now roughly two-thirds — is gobbled up by federal deficits. When the government gobbles up our savings, they are not available for better uses.

EISNER: The deficit certainly does matter, but not in the way Mr. Peterson thinks. If the deficit were reduced, income and saving and investment would be less, not more. If people get less income in Social Security or veterans' benefits or pay more taxes, they will have less to save.

What people forget is that for every borrower there is a lender. The public debt is owed to the public. The government deficit is a public surplus. Deficit hawks frequently say that each child is born owing \$17,000, but you could just as well say he is born with a

nest egg of \$17,000 in government securities.

PETERSON: That's absurd! How can an economist not believe there is a profound difference between a nest egg that could be invested to produce future growth and a debt the young will have to pay for our past consumption? If there weren't a difference, how would it matter if we all borrowed everything we could?

EISNER: Mr. Peterson just doesn't get it! Demagogues always raise the issue of an individual's debt, but government debt is different. An individual has a day of reckoning, but our government hopefully will never die. It can keep rolling over the debt.

Besides, the government has the power to raise its income by taxing more. I'm not saying the government should, but it could. An individual cannot walk up to his boss and demand a raise to cover his debts. The government can. Saying the government shouldn't borrow is putting a constraint on it that we don't put on businesses or even ourselves. The government has more ability to repay debt than either business or individuals.

Q. Isn't much of the debt owed to foreigners?

EISNER: Many people are frightened by the foreign stake — under 20 percent of the debt — but they shouldn't be. The U.S. debt is in dollars. I'm not suggesting this, but if we wanted to, we could just print the money and pay off the debt. There is no reason for the United States ever to go bankrupt when it owes debts in its own currency.

PETERSON: I agree that the foreign share of the debt is not the central problem — although there's a lot to be said for the United States relying on domestic savings to fund investment. I believe great nations shouldn't leave their destiny in the hands of foreigners. But the real issue is that by incurring debt we are slipping the check for our free lunch today to our kids to pay tomorrow.

Q. That's the nub of the problem. Are we or aren't we mortgaging our children's future by taking on public debt?

PETERSON: The chronic deficits do represent a mortgage on our future, letting us live better now at the expense of younger and unborn generations who will have to repay it. Mr. Eisner can tell us not to worry — that the debt is a big nest egg — but our children will find those eggs are rotten.

There's another critical point that may have nothing to do with economics but has a lot to do with morality. Thomas Jefferson, for one, thought it might be a good idea to make unconstitutional the passing on of one generation's debt to the next. His argument was this: We fought the Revolutionary War over taxation without representation. But, said Jefferson, when one generation willy-nilly passes on debt to the next, that is taxation without representation.

EISNER: It's absolutely untrue that the deficit means we are mortgaging our future. We have ample ability to repay the debt.

There is a sense in which we are mortgaging our future, though, and that's by letting our cities decay and raising an ill-educated generation that is competent only to mug us or be on drugs. That inadequate investment is mortgaging our future.

In fact, this obsession with the deficit only aggravates matters. We're

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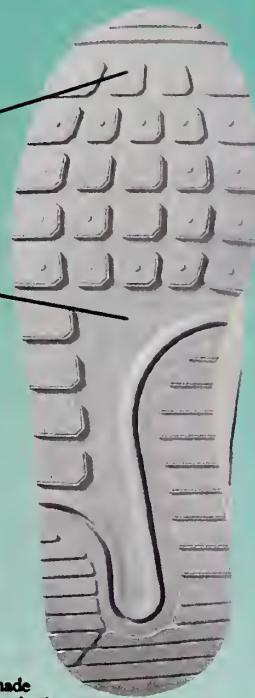
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DEFICIT DEBATE

Continued from page 84

not spending money that would save us money. We're not investing in job training, education, welfare reform, mainly because deficit hawks keep carping about the deficit. This is like telling a business with a great idea that it cannot borrow to build new plants. It's idiocy.

And by the way, Jefferson as President ran up what was then a huge debt — \$15 million — for the Louisiana Purchase, which at that time doubled the size of the United States. Debt, as this shows, is not always a bad thing. Sometimes it can be very good for the nation's long-term prosperity.

Q. How much do we pay in interest on the debt?

PETERSON: Interest payments amount to about 14 percent of the federal budget. If we weren't paying that interest, in the years since 1965 we could have *doubled* the amount we

spent on every federal poverty program except Medicaid. The fact is, interest payments are crowding out the same public investments Mr. Eisner says he's for.

EISNER: Interest payments will crowd out other spending only if politicians do so. They are a piddling amount in relation to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the federal budget. However, suppose we eliminated the public debt. Remember who owns it. That would mean people would no longer be earning interest on Savings Bonds or Treasury bills. Public debt service may be a burden to the government but it is a benefit to the public. This hardly is a burden on the economy.

Q. Should we sacrifice to reduce the deficit?

EISNER: Sacrificing to reduce the deficit now makes as much sense as sacrificing a virgin for the gods. Neither will benefit us.

We keep being told by people like Mr. Peterson that we're not saving enough, but no Big Brother should tell Americans to save more. People should

save as much as they feel like. We'll have more saving if the economy is prosperous, if we're earning more, and if business is investing. That's a basic principle of economics and no amount of debating will change it.

PETERSON: Mr. Eisner may talk of sacrificing virgins, but I would say that thanks to our public profligacy we have precious little fiscal virginity left to sacrifice. As a nation, we need to spend less and save more for the long-term good, and to keep the United States an economically competitive world power.

Most Americans want their kids to do better than they have done. They want their incomes to grow. They want the American Dream to come to life for them. That will take more productivity and more investment. Therefore, it is in the national interest to save more.

Q. Are entitlement programs — Medicare, Social Security, food stamps, welfare — the cause of the deficit?

PETERSON: There is *no* solution for the debt without cutting entitlements. In 1960, 27 percent of the federal budget went to entitlements. By the year 2000, it will be 60 percent. And we ain't seen nothing yet. When the Baby Boomers become seniors, entitlements will go out of sight. Defense spending cannot and should not be cut much more. Discretionary spending may have a few places to cut but it doesn't add up to much; it's already less than 15 percent of federal spending. As for programs for the poor, if we cut *all* of them by 25 percent, it would only amount to 3 percent of the budget.

I'm a believer in the philosophy of Willie Sutton who explained he robbed banks because "that's where the money is." In the federal budget, about \$375 billion a year in entitlements and expenditures go to people with incomes *above average*. That what I call "welfare for the well-off." We can make substantial cuts there, without inflicting significant pain.

We used to operate under the Endowment Ethic, leaving our children more than we took. Now it's the Entitlement Ethic, where we consume everything we produce and all we can borrow from the future. We think we can all be on this wagon but if we are, who will pull it? Unless we confront entitlements spending now, our kids can look forward to something closer to the American Nightmare than the American Dream.

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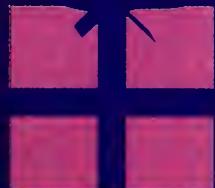
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DEFICIT DEBATE

Continued from page 86

EISNER: Obviously, if we cut entitlement programs, we would cut the deficit. But entitlements in the United States are less than in much of the rest of the world and I do not think we should reduce our present levels.

I do not think we should cut Social Security, for instance. Why sock the elderly? Yet Social Security is by far the biggest entitlement program. Do we want to cut veterans' benefits? Why pick on them? Another huge entitlement is Medicare and Medicaid. Health care may need some cost-savings, but who wants less health care?

This business about cutting entitlements is a cheap shot. It's well and good for Mr. Peterson to say Social Security should be means tested — that is, payments cut when income exceeds a certain level — but he is reported to be a billionaire and of course doesn't need his. Get into his proposal and you see that means-testing starts not with billionaires, but with families with

middle incomes of \$35,000 to \$40,000. Reducing those elderly peoples' incomes would be plain nasty.

PETERSON: First off, I'd like to know where Mr. Eisner got that I'm a billionaire. I'm not even close. Next, Mr. Eisner says it's "nasty" to take entitlements from people with moderate incomes. Well, in my research, I calculated what we would save by cutting entitlements to people with incomes over \$200,000. This amounts only to \$5 billion. It doesn't meet the Willie Sutton test.

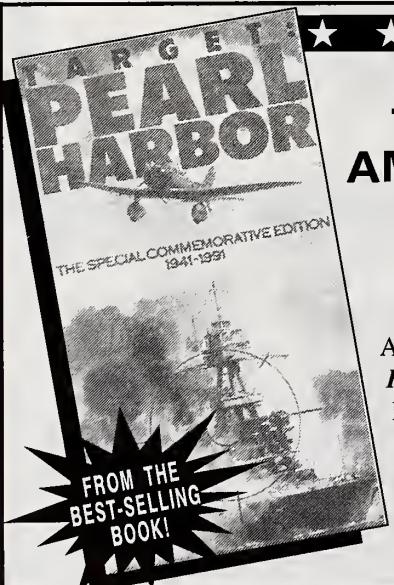
But when we look to America's broad middle class, we find the deficit-reducing savings we need — not by inflicting pain but by asking everyone above average to do a little bit. If we don't include the broad middle class, we cannot possibly solve this problem.

My plan would cut benefits *slightly* for those slightly above average income and, then, on a steeply progressive basis cut benefits for those with higher incomes. So while I personally would lose \$15,000 in annual benefits, the person who's \$10,000 above the median income would only lose a few hundred dollars.

Q. Should we as citizens be doing anything about the deficit?

PETERSON: Herb Stein [former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers] once said that the role of the citizen is to make it safer for politicians to do the right thing. Today's politicians privately admit they are in fact terrified by future entitlements spending. They are deeply alarmed by future deficits. But they think taking this on would be political suicide. Well, I remember the Japanese kamikaze pilots of World War II and, as I keep telling people, there are damned few kamikazes in Congress. So the role of the citizens is to come up with a fair plan for getting rid of the deficit and communicating it to the Congress. We have to make it safe for our representatives to do what they know needs doing.

EISNER: We should remind Congress that "it's the economy, stupid," not the deficit. What counts are jobs, income and production, now and in the future. Cutting the deficit now is likely to hurt the economy. We would be better off if we increased the deficit to accomplish important goals — to reform welfare, to improve education, to fight crime and to build public infrastructure. That would be investing in a brighter future. □



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GARBAGE WAR

Continued from page 45

has let manufacturers know it wants products packaged with the least amount of material. Many Americans blame "excessive packaging" for a lion's share of the garbage crisis. Perhaps rightly so. Containers of all kinds, from cardboard boxes to toothpaste tubes to plastic "bubble" packs, make up at least a third of America's trash.

And industry has responded. For instance, plastic milk jugs are thinner, and it takes more aluminum cans to make a pound. Both are examples of package "lightweighting" that conserves natural resources and cuts transportation costs.

The message hits the breakfast table on cereal boxes labeled, "Carton made from 100 percent recycled paper," with the added technical information: "Minimum 35 percent post-consumer content." Some of the 35 percent is made from the old newspapers we're recycling at home.

But there are skeptics who argue that consumers haven't really changed, that many of us talk a tougher garbage game than we play. Pollsters, for example, know that Americans exaggerate when asked how much they recycle. And while we say we prefer products that reduce waste, we seem to buy products for other reasons, like

price or convenience.

For instance, when the garbage crisis was at a fever pitch in 1990, Clorox Co. was worried about its Pine-Sol brand of household cleaner after competitor Procter & Gamble came out with a Spic and Span bottle made of 100 percent recycled plastic.

"We immediately panicked. There goes our market share," recalls Terrence Bedell, environmental packaging manager at Clorox. But there was no need to worry. "We never saw one single share point of difference between our products," he says.

If the choices made in supermarkets have nothing to do with garbage, then why do so many Americans tell pollsters that garbage is the most important environmental issue?

Judd Alexander, author of *In Defense of Garbage*, has an answer. To him, garbage is very personal stuff. Everybody has it in their homes. They live with it every day. And that turns each of us into a garbage expert.

Bill Rathje is a University of Arizona archaeologist who digs up landfills to discover what garbage tells us about America. He says the garbage crisis began with "the absolutely visceral symbol of 'The Garbage Barge.' People really can imagine being buried in garbage."

But Rathje thinks Americans are smarter now. He believes the "crisis" of 1989 has been reduced to a manageable "problem" in 1994. "More and more people in the environmental community are beginning to come to that same conclusion." □

SEATTLE'S CLEAN SWEEP

Continued from page 45

duced, the average Seattle household created 3.5 cans of garbage a week. Now the average is one can.

At the Jones household, recyclables are sorted into three recycling bins: one for glass, plastic and metal food and beverage containers; one for newspapers; and one for all other paper, including cardboard and advertising mail. "I stand right by the recycling bins when I open the mail and the junk just goes right in there," says Karen.

By recycling with a vengeance, the Joneses can get by with only one garbage can, though Steve confesses he has occasionally done the "Seattle Stomp" on his refuse to jam it all in. To get rid of all the grass clippings,

bush trimmings and miscellaneous yard waste produced on their city lot, the Joneses pay \$3 a month extra. This buys weekly collection of five containers of yard waste.

"They take five giant paper bags. It's worth every penny," says Karen, who likes to garden. Steve likes that his yard waste is composted and returned to good use. "It's so obviously misplaced in a landfill," he says.

Altogether, the Jones household trash bill comes to \$17.98 a month, or about twice the national urban average. But separate collection of recyclables and yard waste have sold the program to residents. No problem, says Steve, "I think the price is fine." □

—N.C.

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POWER OF PR

Continued from page 22

Nothing disarms a negative media inquiry faster than honesty.

Since the facts will always come out, it's better for the media to hear them from you. That way, you can explain what happened from your point of view and put it in the context of the great things your Post and The American Legion do all year long.

Do not say "no comment." Don't ask the media to withhold the story. Don't evade the questions. Do see that your side is presented, make sure the reporter talks with others who will speak well of your Post, and always be polite.

Create a good image. "The image of The American Legion is one of courage, service and goodwill," says Thomas Kouyeas, Chairman of the Legion's National Public Relations Commission. "While we are well respected for what we do, we can still do better in bringing our message to the people. In fact, we can energize our organization for another 75 years with the power of PR.

"Maintaining a good image requires a continuous public relations effort," Kouyeas says. "Your efforts, day by day, determine what image The American Legion has. Today it is a good image. Tomorrow, we can make it even better with the power of PR." □

—By Nancy Price

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206

Ivan Collier, Ken Freil, Louie Gomez, Ray Juarez, Elwood W. Murphy, Harold G. Polley, Antonio H. Rangel, Cruz Sandoval (1994) Post 277, Placentia, CA

Al J. Labendz (1994) Post 795, South Lake Tahoe, CA David F. Martinez (1994) Post 21, Scarborough, CAN Ronald S. Ashworth, Victor E. Greco, Robert J. Grey,

Roy Gronholm, Robert W. Hart, Harold P. Johnson, Leonard A. Krashefski, Louis Krashefski, Stanley P. Kurek, James J. Matthews, Peter M. Novak, Benedict Totten, James B. Ventres, John Yeomans (1993) Post 156, Moodus, CT

John J. Seeland Jr., John M. Williams (1994) Post 117, Palm Bay, FL

John G. Vasiliak (1994) Post 245, Boca Raton, FL Carmine Pitanello, Leonard E. Price Jr., Gerald J. Rapaport, Charles E. Rawcliffe, Elmer C. Relchert, Aiken Relchner, Joseph A. Riley, Dennis A. Rudel, Al P. Saufley, Richard R. Selby, James Shapiro, Raymond J. Sheehan (1994) Post 1, Paris, FRA

Please turn to page 94

received copies of the November issue.

*Mary Creighton
Mineral Wells, Texas*

Reading Brindley's article and its focus on Mineral Wells, Texas, I was amazed and somewhat bothered by the absence of any mention of that town's chapter in the lives of thousands of veterans.

As the home of the Army's Primary Helicopter School during the 1960s and 1970s at Camp (later Fort) Wolters in Mineral Wells, it became home to almost every Army chopper pilot who flew in Vietnam. That proud history, I suggest, is at the bedrock of the unique celebration of patriotism described by Brindley.

*William Y. Doran
Wilmington, N.C. □*

"A whole crane is structured out on our computer system, analyzed by stresses and deflections, and all the elements due to certain load configurations are applied," he says. "We have biomechanics people who work with body motions, body kinetics. Computer graphics show the person's weight, height and body response. It's not enough for us to speculate what caused the accident. We have to be right."

FAA is the largest company of its kind in the country, but there are others, including the military. "A couple of us went to Fort Rucker to their center for accident analysis, and we were amazed at how competent the military personnel and civilians were," Ross says. "They are experts at investigating any military accident anywhere in the world, whether it's a car crash in Germany, a shell that explodes in

Korea or a helicopter crash in the Southwest. They do an outstanding job."

Ross maintains that few accidents and product failures are truly the fault of poor design or engineering. Statistically, he says, 85 percent of all accidents involve human error. "It's surprising how many industrial accident reports come up with 'operator error.' Lack of training is the problem. We don't have apprentice programs, nor the dedicated work force of 40 years ago."

Still, products are getting safer, and failures in almost every category are down. Ski accidents, for instance, have declined 58 percent from 1974 to 1990 due to improved boot and binding design.

Has Ross's line of work affected his day-to-day living? "I'm an absolute nut about jaywalking," he says.

"Ninety percent of pedestrian accidents involve crossing streets in the middle of a block. I look both ways, and if I can't see a car for blocks, I still walk to the crosswalk on the corner." □

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Senior Citizens with Money in the Bank should Read This before it's Too Late

If you have worked hard all your life and managed to put away a nest egg, you might end up losing most of your life savings because of a defect in Medicare.

If you or your spouse suddenly become ill and require extended nursing home care...NO ONE will help you with the nursing home bills. Medicare won't and neither will your health insurance. By law you are responsible for the nursing home bills yourself. Only after you have used up virtually all of your money, will Medicaid step in. That's because Medicaid, like Welfare, only aids the poor. By some estimates, the average couple's life savings can be wiped out after only 13 weeks of nursing home care.

Rich people don't have to worry because they can afford super-expensive special nursing home insurance, while the poor are taken care of by Medicaid.

Now that just doesn't seem fair to working people with a lifetime of hard-earned savings. The system they have supported with tax dollars, seems to have forgotten them. Savings intended to provide security in retirement, or help for children, can quickly go up in smoke.

The fact is, if you don't know how to protect your assets, here's what can happen to you. By law, before Medicaid will pay nursing home bills, you have to spend all your countable assets except \$2000 (or as low as \$1500 in some states.) Countable assets mean not only money in checking and savings accounts...but also any funds in CD's, IRA's, Savings Bonds, Mutual Funds, stocks, whole life insurance, annuities and other types of investments, as well as most trust assets.

They can also take a vacation home or a second car. In addition, your entire Social Security or pension check can be taken to cover nursing home expenses.

What's more, if you are single or widowed, you can even lose your house.

According to the federal law called the Spousal Impoverishment Act of 1988, if one spouse requires extended nursing home care, the healthy spouse can be forced to surrender HALF of their combined countable assets. And if you have a sizable estate, they can legally take MORE THAN HALF.

Is there anything you can do to stop this nightmare from happening to you? Yes. You are protected by law and can use several legal techniques to place your countable (or vulnerable) assets into the uncountable (or protected) category. The problem is, most people are not aware of their legal rights. Unfortunately, most people think Medicare will take care of them, so they unknowingly leave their assets vulnerable and in jeopardy.

Your legal rights and the many methods of protecting your money are now revealed in "How to Protect Your Financial Security." This financial self-defense manual tells you simple legal procedures for preserving your money and warns of pitfalls to avoid. Here is some of the valuable material you learn:

- Three legal ways to turn countable (or vulnerable) assets into uncountable (or protected) assets
- How to protect your house from being sold to pay nursing home bills
- How to protect a second car or vacation home
- If you give your money to your children without following these precise guidelines, a nursing home could get your money anyhow
- This common legal mistake can actually prevent you or your spouse from receiving emergency

medical care

- What you need to know about Living Trusts, especially since Congress changed the rules as of October 1, 1993
- How to prevent your bank account from being frozen if you enter a nursing home
- What lawyers never tell you about protecting your will

As a hard-working taxpayer, you have a legal right to protect your life savings for yourself, your spouse or your heirs. You don't have to be rich to have peace of mind. You just have to follow the easy steps outlined in "How to Protect Your Financial Security."

Although "How to Protect Your Financial Security" can easily save you thousands of dollars, the price is very reasonable. Right now, you can receive a special press run for only \$8.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. It is not available in any bookstore. It is only available through this special offer on a 90 day Money Back Guarantee. If you are dissatisfied in any way, just return it in 90 days for a full refund, no questions asked.

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"The Vinegar Book" will amaze and delight you with 308 time-honored folk remedies that mix vinegar with other kitchen staples to:

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- Help lower cholesterol
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- Relieve nighttime leg cramps
- Soothe sprained muscles
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- Help headaches fade away
- Corn and callus relief
- Relieve insect bites, rashes
- Remedy for urinary problems
- Use for coughs, colds
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MADE IN USA

Continued from page 00

the wine) and his tasters have been favorably impressed.

There is no need to buy expensive European wines to impress dinner guests when comparable and less expensive American wines are readily available.

AMERICAN CLOTHING

American clothing and shoes are coming back. Some American clothing, like blue jeans, never went out of fashion. While many American companies have their shoes produced overseas (example: Nike), try a pair of athletic shoes by Boston-based New Balance, or Saucony running shoes, rated by *Consumer Reports* as the best running shoes in the world.

In clothing you must read the labels because one pair of Dockers will be made in the U.S.A., while another is imported. Surveys have shown that American-made clothing fits better, wears better and is more colorfast than imported garments.

AMERICAN INVENTIVENESS

From the airplane to the fax, Americans have invented every major product of the 20th century except two — radar and the jet engine.

California-based Ampex Corporation developed the VCR in the 1950s, but made professional models for television stations, not for home consumption. Japanese companies exploited the technology for home use. The only American-made VCRs are assembled by Panasonic in Washington State.

On the other hand, Xerox has brought some of its manufacturing back to the United States from Japan.

Xerox Corporation invented the photocopy machine in the early 1960s and had its success duplicated by many Japanese copier companies. Last year, in a reversal of the trend, Xerox announced that its small copiers would be made in New York State instead of Japan. It remains the last American company making a full-range of copiers.

More remarkable, perhaps, is the fact that AT&T, which invented the fax machine in 1920, doesn't manufacture any fax machines in the U.S.A. Shame on AT&T, which now buys Ricoh fax machines from Japan and puts its label on them.

But a silver lining to this dark fax cloud is that the "brains" of 80 percent of the world's fax machines, the modem, is made in America by Rockwell International. The rest of a fax machine is in reality a copier and a telephone. You can buy a fax modem and turn your computer into a fax machine, bypassing the Japanese lock on the fax machine market.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Americans can use the power of their wallets and vote with dollars for American-made goods. According to the Commerce Department, every billion dollars in trade deficit costs us 19,000 jobs. With our annual trade deficit at over \$100 billion, we have lost 2 million jobs to imports.

Be an informed consumer. Look at labels. If a store does not offer American alternatives, shop elsewhere. Those who shop by catalog should look for country of origin in the descriptions of all apparel items. It's required to be there by law. There are no legal requirements for other merchandise, so don't be afraid to ask where a product is made when ordering. Many mail order companies offer fine U.S.-made products.

We have only ourselves to blame for our massive trade deficit. We still make some of the finest products in the world: It takes just a little effort to find out where they can be purchased. If you want more information on buying American, call the Made in the USA Foundation at (800) USA-PRIDE. □

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Continued from page 92

Walter B. Bellville, Lewis C. Jones (1994) Post 374, Indianapolis, IN

Melvin J. Procaccini, Charles M. Stewart (1994) Post 110, Medfield, MA

Edwin E. Snyder (1994), John C. Hindman Jr., Russell M. Johnson, Ralph E. Reed, F. Auvan Smith (1995) Post 194, Rising Sun, MD

Joseph Manly (1982), James H. Morey (1985) Post 86, Gray, ME

Nickolas Moriates (1994) Post 854, Valley Stream, NY

Clarence P. Gehrig, Sabino D. Guglielmo, Harry F. Hammond, Paul M. Lowe, Michael Moriarty, Ferdinand J. Napfel, Dominick J. Nicastro, Eugene J. O'Donnell, Robert W. O'Donnell, Harold A. Putnam, Ralph Quaresima, John Russo (1994) Post 945, Jefferson Valley, NY

Frank Battaglino, Attilio Benedetto, Paul Cigiliano, Augustine Felugo, Ralph Ferrara, Vincent Iannaccone, Gaetano Lacorazza, Robert Riccio, Frank Rizzo, Caesar Zemme (1994) Post 1212, New York City, NY

Oswald J. Baker (1994) Post 1248, Arkport, NY

Alfred Bosco (1994) Post 1310, Staten Island, NY

Richard G. High, James D. Moore, Edward Spillet, Harvey Stone, Russell F. Widger (1989), Donald R. Carrara, George E. O'Connor (1991), Samuel S. Buranich, Clifford Lowe, Donald Napier, John F. Neilligan (1992), Lawrence D. Robinson (1994) Post 1540, Camillus, NY

George M. Szymanski (1994) Post 10, Wausau, WI

Harold Bamke, Clemens Wolf (1994) Post 483, Allen- ton, WI

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WINNING IMAGES

Continued from page 30

Malloy. Carefully look around you, then make your wardrobe decisions. Of course there are exceptions — sometimes a boss will dress casually but expect employees to adhere to a strait-laced look — but "generally you won't go wrong dressing in the leader's style," Molloy contends.

Disappointed there isn't a magic formula?

"There cannot be," says Molloy. "Image is too complex. Our research shows that the industry and region in which you work are major factors in appropriate dress." He says accountants usually will opt for more conservative clothing than ad executives, for instance, while Texans typically dress more casually than New Yorkers.

"Study the successful people in your field and you'll learn a lot about image," he says.

Where does "personal style" come in? "There's nothing wrong with it if it's within the range of dress that's appropriate for you and your position," says Molloy. "But if your 'style' separates you from your group, it's not working for you."

"Ultimately," adds Bixler, "the effort to look our best is worth it. There's nothing quite like walking into a room and knowing we have it all together. It's the greatest feeling in the world." □

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Legion Department Service Officers.

A Co., 1st Bn., 7th Marines Phillip Dale Weeks needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Chu Lai, Vietnam, in 1967, a hand grenade exploded, rupturing his ear drum, and his ears began to drain. Contact CID 1267.

B Co., 1st Bn., 46th Inf. Frank Fortuna needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at LZ Professional, Americal Div. in Vietnam during early October 1969, he injured his neck and leg when he stepped in a deep hole in water during enemy contact while on patrol. Contact CID 1266.

Heavy Mortar Co., 3rd Bn., 26th Rgt. Morris Scott (AKA Kariem Muhammad) needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Tent City near Lenwood Barracks, Swinfort, Germany, during 1951-52, he received medical treatment for a rash, frostbite and high blood pressure. Contact CID 1265.

Hq. Co., 179th Rgt., 45th Div. James M. Isom needs witnesses to verify that while stationed in Korea in 1952-53 he experienced physical, social and psychological conditions that contributed to his PTSD. Contact CID 1268.



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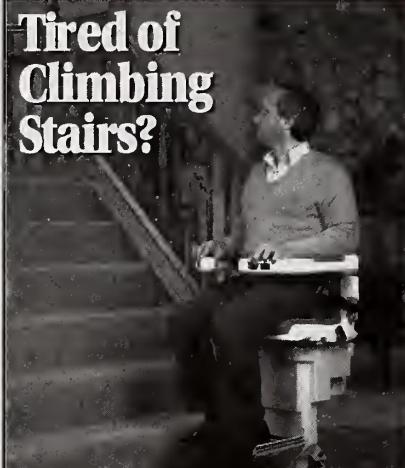
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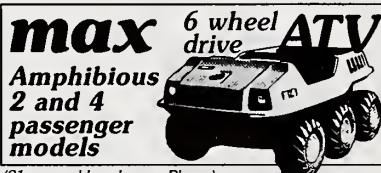
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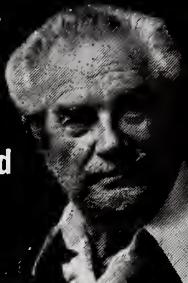
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Politically Speaking

Politics may make strange bedfellows, but it also makes for some pretty strange comments. For example, the following was overheard on the floor of the Wisconsin state legislature:

- "As long as I am in the Senate, there will not be a nuclear suppository in northern Wisconsin."

- "These numbers are not my own; they are from someone who knows what he's talking about!"

- "If you are going to start cleaning up the state, don't start in my part of the state!"

- "I know that he wants to require everyone to expose themselves to everyone else."

- "Good communication is essential — even if it isn't clear."

Good News

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An English politician was interviewed by a reporter on his arrival in Washington, D.C. He had been warned before leaving London to be careful how he answered any questions from American journalists, who would probably be out to make a fool of him.

The reporter met him at the airline gate and asked, "Are you going to visit any nightclubs during your visit to Washington?"

The politician innocently replied, "Are there any nightclubs in Washington?"

The next day the newspaper reported that the politician's first question after getting off the airplane was, "Are there any nightclubs in Washington?"

Loony Toons

The cartoon characters Beavis and Butt-head are being blamed for starting fires. Hmmm, let's blame everything on cartoon characters. Heart disease is Porky Pig's fault; illegal immigration is due to Speedy Gonzalez; and Boris Yeltsin's troubles are because of a flying squirrel and a scatterbrained moose.

Teed Off

While sitting in the clubhouse, an old friend asked Dave why he no longer played golf with Tom. Dave said, "Would you play golf with a guy who's always improving his ball position, occasionally slips a tee under his ball in the fairway, and regularly lies about his score?"

The answer from his old friend was obvious, "Certainly not!"

Dave said, "Well, Tom won't play with a guy like that, either."

Taking A Snap

Television is filled with violence, brutality and barbarism, but that's just since football season began.

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